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THE ROYAL MILE

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PLATE I.

EDINBURGH CASTLE.

[*See page* 1.

THE ROYAL MILE

EDINBURGH CASTLE TO HOLYROODHOUSE

BY

ROBERT T. SKINNER

OLIVER AND BOYD
EDINBURGH: TWEEDDALE COURT
LONDON: 33 PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.
1928

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY
OLIVER AND BOYD, EDINBURGH

TO

H. M. FORBES

PREFACE

No one has written—it may safely be said, no one can ever write—a faultless account of the thoroughfare between Edinburgh Castle and Holyroodhouse.

In this enlarged edition of " The Royal Mile " the Author is indebted to his colleagues in the Old Edinburgh Club, Mr William Cowan, Mr Thomas Ross, LL.D., Mr Charles B. Boog Watson, for helpful criticism and suggestion.

" The Royal Mile " is no misnomer: the distance from the inside of the drawbridge of the Castle to the entrance door of Holyroodhouse is 1 mile 106 yards.

Donaldson's Hospital,
Edinburgh, 22*nd May* 1928.

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Acknowledgments are made for permission to reproduce the following Illustrations :—Mr Francis C. Inglis for Nos. II., IX., XXXVIII., XL. ; Messrs George Waterston & Sons, Ltd, for Nos. XX., XXI., XXVI., XXXI., XXXIII. ; Mr Francis M. Chrystal for sixteen others.

THE CASTLE

WHETHER Edinburgh Castle was founded by a King of the Picts or whether King Edwin of Northumbria ever occupied it, is a moot-point; there can be no possible doubt at least that King Malcolm II. (d. 1034) made it a residence, and that here Margaret, widow of King Malcolm Canmore, breathed her last.

The venerable pile has staged countless historic episodes. During the rivalry of Bruce and Baliol, the English captured the Castle, holding it for seventeen years; Randolph, 1st Earl of Moray, having climbed the rock with thirty men, eventually retook it.

Kirkcaldy of Grange, doomed to be hanged at the Mercat Cross, held the Castle during 1570–1573 in the interests of Queen Mary, at that time a prisoner in England. When he surrendered to the besieging Scots, the Regent Morton planned and erected the Half-Moon Battery, the semicircular platform whose guns are still fired on occasions of national significance.

Another siege was that of Cromwell's Ironsides in 1650; another that of 1689, when "Bonnie" Dundee climbed the rock to encourage the Duke of Gordon to continue holding the fortress for King James VII.; a minor siege followed in 1745.

The arched pend by which the visitor ascends the path is surmounted by the Argyll Tower.

The "Great Marquis", who was imprisoned in one of the dungeons pictured by R. L. Stevenson in *St Ives*, is believed to have spent his last night in the Tower which bears his name and which figures in E. M. Ward's "Last Sleep of Argyll".

Forged either at Mons or at Mollance near Castle Douglas, the old-world siege-piece, "Mons Meg", stands facing Princes Street. Associated with the Siege of Norham, the gun burst when fired in honour of the Duke of York's visit to Edinburgh in 1680; having found a home in the Tower of London for several years, it was returned to Scotland in 1829.

Behind Mons Meg stands St Margaret's Chapel, the oldest place of worship in the Capital. If the saintly Queen built this edifice, her son (King David I.) completed the chancel arch.

Only recently the lower chambers and foundations of King David II.'s Tower have been discovered. Here King James III.'s brother, the Duke of Albany (1454–85), was kept prisoner; he escaped by lowering himself from the Castle, boarding a ship at Newhaven, and fleeing to France.

On the summit of the Castle Rock stands the Scottish National War Memorial (1914–19).

The "Old Palace" contains the apartment where on 19th June 1566 Mary Stuart gave birth to a child, afterwards King James VI.

The Scottish Regalia being deposited in the Castle after the Treaty of Union (1707), Scott and others obtained Royal permission to open the chest in which they were supposed to be

St Margaret's Chapel.

[See page 2.

concealed, and there they were discovered intact (1818). The circlet worn by Bruce and arched over by King James V. figured at the coronation of King Charles II. The Sword of State was presented by Pope Julius II. to King James IV. Cardinal York, the last of the Stuarts, bequeathed the four jewels which King William IV. placed in the Castle :—(*a*) " St George ", which belonged to King James VI. ; (*b*) King Charles I.'s ruby ring ; (*c*) " St Andrew ", which King George V. sometimes wears at Holyroodhouse ; (*d*) The Collar of the Garter, presented by Queen Elizabeth to King James VI.

The Old Parliament Hall has been the scene of banquets in honour of the " Martyr " King and Oliver Cromwell. A never-to-be-forgotten feast was that of the year 1440, when the youthful Earl of Douglas and his brother were butchered out in the courtyard at the instigation of Chancellor Crichton.

Castle Hill Walk (Esplanade).—The flat expanse of morainic material used to be the parade-ground for the garrison.

The order of Knight-baronet of Scotland and Nova Scotia having been instituted in 1621 by King James VI., the mandate of his successor, King Charles I., declared by a legal fiction that the soil of the Castle Hill should serve as that of Nova Scotia. The number of creations was one-hundred-and-twenty-two in King Charles I.'s reign (1625–49), no fewer than sixty-four baronets taking seisin on this historic spot.

In olden times witches were put to death on the Castle Hill Walk, the victim being strangled, and the body burned thereafter.

From the Esplanade one obtains a view of the Cannon Ball House :—dormer window, with A. M.—M. N. 1630 (initials of the builder, Alexander Mure, furrier, and his wife, Margaret Neillems) : grooves for the sliding shutters of pre-glass days, such holes being called " shots ".

The Cannon Ball, which gives its name to the House, may have been fired from the Castle and thereafter built into the gable, but it has also been suggested that the round-shot indicates the height to which water coming from certain mountain springs can rise by gravitation.

CASTLE HILL—North Side

The street numbers are those of the Post Office Directory

Ramsay Lodge.—The villa, which appears in Edgar's Plans of 1742 and 1765, and whose octagonal tower is seen from Princes Street, was built by Allan Ramsay (1686–1758), wig-maker, bookseller, and author of *The Gentle Shepherd.* The wags of the town used to speak of the villa as a goose-pie, and when Ramsay complained to Lord Elibank, his Lordship replied :—" Indeed, Allan, when I see you in it, I think they are not far wrong."

Other occupants were Mrs Grant of Laggan (1755–1838), who wrote *Letters from the Mountains*; Sir Adam Ferguson (1771–1855), who, through the exertions of Scott, was appointed Keeper of

CANNON BALL HOUSE.

[*See page 4.*

(*a*) Cockpen House. (*b*) Rockville Close. (*c*) Boswell's Close.

[*See pages* 6, 10.

the Regalia of Scotland; John Galt (1779–1839), who wrote here a portion of *The Annals of the Parish*; and George Husband Baird, D.D. (1761–1840), Principal of Edinburgh University, one of the two ministers by whom "according to the usual Scotch fashion prayers were offered up" at Abbotsford on the occasion of Scott's funeral.

An additional row of buildings was erected by the younger Allan Ramsay (1713–84), portrait-painter to King George III. Johnson, often his guest at 67 Harley Street, wrote of this artist:—"You will not find a man in whose conversation there is more instruction, more information, and more elegance."

Reservoir.—Dimensions: 110 feet × 92 feet × 33 feet. The existing cistern was erected in 1849 to supply the High Street wells with water. In 1674 Peter Brauss, a Dutchman, brought water by a 3-inch leaden pipe from Comiston to cisterns or conduits at the High Street. The City Records of 1675 state that George Whyte, servant to Brauss, retained the keys of the water fountains, and that a small pipe was led into the Tolbooth to supply the prisoners with water. In 1722 a pipe of 4½ inches was used, and from Swanston in 1760 another of elm wood. In 1787 a 5-inch iron pipe was laid; three years later a pipe of 7 inches.

Says the Woodhouselee MS. of 1745: the Highlanders "have lett owt the town sisteren in Castle hill, and the watter runs down the streats".

Ramsay Lane.—The Lane is associated with Ramsay Lodge as well as with the residence of the Lairds of Cockpen, the Ramsays of Dalhousie.

A Senator of the College of Justice with the title of Lord Abbotshall, Sir Andrew Ramsay was chief magistrate of Edinburgh and resided here for several years. He was the first commoner styled Lord Provost, King Charles II. bestowing the honour in 1667, and giving his Lordship precedence similar to that of the Lord Mayor of London.

King James VI. had already in 1608 graciously permitted a sword to be carried before the Provost of Edinburgh, at the same time permitting the magistrates to wear gowns.

In Ramsay Lane was located the Industrial School of Thomas Guthrie, D.D. (1803–73). Dr Guthrie, who conducted the institution for "city Arabs", was regarded by Samuel Smiles as the apostle rather than the founder of ragged schools, such having been introduced into Scotland by Sheriff Watson of Aberdeen.

Outlook Tower (549).—Portion of the mansion of Ramsay of Cockpen, a collateral branch of the Dalhousies, with whom the poet Allan Ramsay claimed connection :—

> Dalhousie of an auld descent
> My chief, my stoup, my ornament.

The dormer windows having been removed, two floors were added for Short's Observatory when the Town Council ordered him to move from Calton Hill.

BLYTH'S CLOSE.

[*See page 7.*

Sempill's Close (541).—The Barony of Sempill dates from 1489, the original seat being at Eliotstoun in Renfrewshire, the Sempills now owning Craigievar Castle and Fintray House in Aberdeenshire.

It was a member of this house who married Mary Livingston, one of the four Marys of Mary Queen of Scots, the Queen presenting the couple with the lands of Auchtermuchty.

Francis Sempill, of Beltrees, is the reputed author of the ballad *Maggie Lauder*.

The mansion seems to have been occupied too by Grizel, sister of 1st Earl of Rosebery and widow of Francis, 8th Lord Sempill, and some years later by Hugh, 12th Lord Sempill, who was in command of the left wing of the Royal Army at Culloden (1746). This house, bearing the date 1638, which was sold in 1755 to Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, serves as kitchen for the New College.

United Free Assembly Hall.—Site of the so-called "palace" of Mary of Guise, mother of Mary Queen of Scots and widow of King James V. Holyroodhouse having been burned by the English under Hertford (afterwards Protector Somerset), this group of Castle Hill residences was fitted up for the Queen-Mother.

Somerset was brother-in-law to King Henry VIII.; a descendant of his is the Viscount Lascelles, husband of H.R.H. Princess Mary.

Formerly giving access to the "Guise Palace", certain closes (Tod's, Nairn's, Blyth's) had to be demolished to provide the site for the U.F. Assembly Hall.

In the north-west corner of Mylne's Court are seen traces of the roof and fire-places of the "Guise Palace".

The easterly portion of the U.F. Assembly Hall occupies the site of the residence of one Bartholomew Somerville, who in 1640 founded the Professorship of Divinity at Edinburgh University.

CASTLE HILL—South Side

Castle Wynd.—A *wynd* was open from end to end—a thoroughfare—while a *close*, being private and open at one end during the day, was closed at night.

[Blair's Close].—The children of the Castle Hill School are accommodated in the Cannon Ball House (which is of the Charles I. period, 1630), and in a new building on the site of the Gordon mansion.

George, 1st Duke of Gordon (1643–1716), was captain and constable and keeper of the Castle (1686–89). His wife, Elizabeth Howard, daughter of 6th Duke of Norfolk, retired to a convent in Flanders, from which she sent to the Faculty of Advocates a medal with the head of the Chevalier.

Robert Chambers asserts that Scott misrepresents fact with his *Bonnets of Bonnie Dundee*. Grahame of Claverhouse (Viscount Dundee) must have led his dragoons out of the City by the Netherbow Port, and, proceeding by Leith Wynd,

GORDON DOORWAY.

[*See pages* 8, 10.

must have galloped along the Lang Dykes (a rough track between the George Street and the Rose Street of to-day). Clambering up the western face of the Castle Rock, Dundee held his final conference with the Duke of Gordon at (or near) the existing postern-gate: Gordon was holding the fortress for King James VII.

> The Gordon demands of him which way he goes:
> Where'er shall direct me the shade of Montrose!
> Your Grace in short space shall hear tidings of me,
> Or that low lies the bonnet of Bonnie Dundee.

The mansion belonged to the Bairds of Saughton-hall early in the eighteenth century.

Mrs Cockburn, author of one version of *The Flowers of the Forest*, removed to the Gordon mansion in 1756. The name of the Close must have been changed: she wrote in 1764–65 from Baird's (not Blair's) Close to Hume, the historian, then at the British Embassy in Paris. "Not only did she divine the genius of young Walter Scott," says T. Craig-Brown, "but she gave Burns the motive for his earliest rhyme, winning both his admiration and his friendship. She knew every man and woman worth knowing in the northern capital, and with one of the greatest, David Hume, seems to have been on terms of intimate and familiar acquaintance."

In the same house was spent the boyhood of General Sir David Baird (1757–1829), of Seringapatam and Corunna fame. Hearing that Tippoo Sahib's prisoners were chained two and two, and that young Baird was among them, the mother

veiled her feelings by ejaculating—"Lord, pity the chiel that's tied to oor Davie!"

Boswell's Court (352).—Named after Dr Boswell, a medical practitioner, uncle of Johnson's biographer. The lexicographer "spent one forenoon at my uncle Dr Boswell's, who showed him his curious museum; and", says Boswell, "as he was an elegant scholar and a physician bred in the school of Boerhaave, Dr Johnson was pleased with his company".

The lintel reads :—

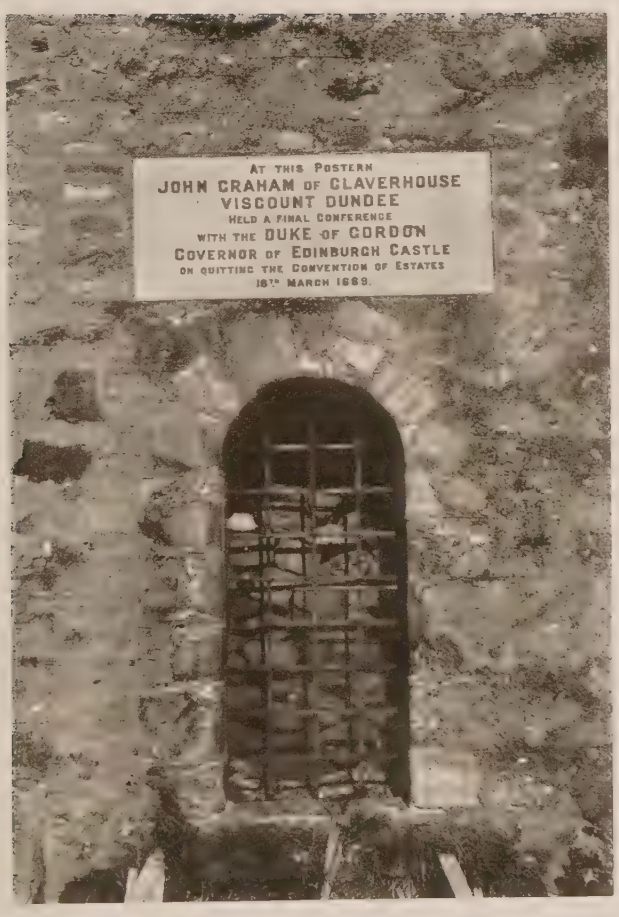
O—Lord—in—The—is—al—mi—Traist.

One observes in the play-ground the re-built doorway of the Duke of Gordon's residence,—over the door is a coronet supported by what appear to be deer-hounds.

[Rockville Close].—Here lived Alexander Gordon (1739–92), Scots judge with the title of Lord Rockville. His father was 2nd Earl of Aberdeen; his mother Anna, daughter of 2nd Duke of Gordon. He was a member of the Crochallan Fencibles, a convivial club which met in Anchor Close.

[Coalstoun's or Kennedy's Close].—Chambers says that the Earl of Cassillis resided in the Close, the family name being Kennedy.

The Pre-Reformation religious house which stood here was occupied for some nineteen years by the judge, Lord Coalstoun (d. 1776). He



Postern Gate, Castle.

[*See page 9.*

was the Sheriff George Broun of Stevenson's *Catriona*, the defending counsel in the Inveraray Murder Trial.

The house of Charles Broun of Coalstoun became in 1794 the first Edinburgh Asylum for the Industrious Blind, an institution projected through the exertions of David Johnston, D.D. (1734–1824), the first Secretary. The idea originated with the blind poet, Dr Thomas Blacklock.

[Stripping Close].—Here prisoners were obliged to remove their upper garments before being whipped " at the usual places between the Castle Hill and the Netherbow ". Three men were whipped as late as 31st July 1822.

This Close contained the printing-office of James Donaldson (1751–1830), publisher of the *Edinburgh Advertiser* and founder of Donaldson's Hospital, the palatial school in West Coates opened in 1850 for normal as well as deaf-mute children.

General Assembly Hall.—The Supreme Court of the Church of Scotland meets here annually in May, the Sovereign being represented by His Grace the Lord High Commissioner (a nobleman or a commoner). The presiding minister, styled the Right Reverend the Moderator of the General Assembly, has precedence in Scotland for a whole year next to the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain and before all Dukes.

The building—throughout the year the Church of the Tolbooth Parish—used first to be called

the Victoria Hall. It is an admirable specimen of Pointed Gothic. The spire is 241 feet in height. The stone was quarried from Binny, near Uphall. The architect, James Gillespie Graham of Orchill, may have been aided by his guest, A. W. N. Pugin.

The foundation-stone was laid in 1842 by the Grand Master Mason, Lord Frederick Fitz-Clarence, who left the Royal cavalcade for the purpose when Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort were proceeding to Edinburgh Castle.

This is the only church in Scotland where the pulpit becomes the throne for the Sovereign's Representative.

In an ante-room stands the chair which the enfeebled Knox occupied in St Giles's.

Johnston Terrace.—The thoroughfare (hitherto the Western Approach and Castle Place) was renamed after Lord Provost Sir William Johnston (1802–88), map publisher. To him the City owes the Meadows and the Queen's Drive.

LAWNMARKET—North Side

The street from the West Bow to St Giles Street is known as the Lawnmarket, and a proverb runs :—"As thrang (crowded) as the Lawnmercat." The name is Land Market in Edgar's Plans of the City, 1742 and 1765, the produce of the land having been sold here. Ainslie's Map of 1780, however, spells the name Lawnmarket.

The *Anecdotes and Egotisms* of Henry Mackenzie (1745–1831) contains the following :—

(1) " The Lawn Mercat, the chief quarter for persons of distinction. It used to be a sort of sight to go to a window there and see the ladies walking (which they always did in fair weather) along that street to the tea-parties at five in the afternoon. Dr Monro the first of that name (1697–1767), one of the founders, it may be said, of the Medical School of Edinburgh, had a house there."

(2) " Stealing a room: that theft was committed by a tenant of a house in the Lawn Mercat, who contrived to remove a partition from the adjacent house on the same floor during the proprietor's absence in the country. I have no doubt of the fact, improbable as it is."

Mylne's Court (517).—Over the entrance is the date 1690. This " land " (a tenement with several houses) used to accommodate 54 families, but the Town Council has reduced the number to 15, retaining the stone walls and restoring the interior, with two separate stairs. " Everything ", writes Cockburn, " that has an old history, or an old ornament, or an old peculiarity, if it can be preserved, ought to be preserved."

Mylne's Court was the earliest attempt at city improvement, Robert Mylne (1633–1710) removing two houses to form a fashionable square. He assisted Sir William Bruce in the design for Holyroodhouse, as rebuilt under " Vice-Regent " Lauderdale. Mylne reclaimed the foreshore at Leith, and he too it was who chiselled the statue of the King's goldsmith for the quadrangle of

Heriot's Hospital. Robert Mylne was seventh "Master Mason to a Royal Race", the Mylnes having held that post since the reign of King James III.

The house dated 1690 was occupied by the officers of Bonnie Prince Charlie. The north-east tenements, with picturesque door, may be a century older.

James's Court (501).—The western entry, Fountainhall Close, "opposite the Bowhead well", gave access to the home of Sir John Lauder, who became a judge (Lord Fountainhall) and who acquired fame as a diarist. His first wife was the daughter of Andrew Ramsay (Lord Abbotshall).

Following Robert Mylne's example, James Brownhill, wright, built this courtyard in 1725–27, modestly calling it by his own Christian name. The inhabitants of the new court were persons of no inconsiderable consequence, for they kept a clerk and a scavenger.

The north-west property, destroyed by fire, was in 1857 rebuilt by David Bryce, R.S.A., architect of Fettes College. One floor, third from the level of the courtyard, was the third Edinburgh home of the historian Hume (1711–76). When Hume went to the British Embassy in Paris, he lent that floor to a man of letters, Hugh Blair, D.D. (1718–1800), hence Mrs Cockburn's allusion to Blair when writing to Hume in 1766:—"I am glad to hear from your sister there is no if's of your coming to Scotland. I am glad even

GLADSTONE'S LAND.

[*See page* 15.

that you, infidel as you are, have chased the gospel out of James's Court." James Boswell (1740–95) afterwards occupied the Hume floor, where he entertained the Corsican patriot, Pascal Paoli (1725–1807). Boswell ultimately possessed the two floors lower down, and there he entertained Dr Johnson in August 1773, when starting for the Hebrides. "Boswell", says one of the lexicographer's letters, "has very handsome and spacious rooms, level with the ground at one side of the house, and on the other four stories high."

The narrow windows of certain houses seem to have given light to the closets in which the hair was powdered.

Gladstone's Land (483).—Acquired in 1631 by Thomas Gladstane, a wealthy burgess. Near the crow-stepped gable is a shield with his own initials and his wife's.

In the window of Ramage's Dairy is the last example of the City's arcading.

The masonry at the back of Gladstone's Land is faced with timber, as many houses used to be. Fuel being scarce when the City was in possession of Queen Mary in 1572, many "lands" were stripped of their timber, especially those of Her Majesty's enemies.

Lady Stair's Close (477).—The fore-stair is at least two centuries old; no such means of access has been sanctioned by the Town Council since 1727. The hole under the fore-stair served as a shelter for the sow! On the occasion of a

Sovereign's entering the City, the fore-stair, hung with tapestry, was occupied by the rank and fashion.

Lady Stair's House bears the initials W. G. and G. S. with the date 1622. The builder was a merchant Sir William Gray (later Lord Gray) of Pittendrum, who married Gidia (Egidia or Giles) Smith, sister of Provost Sir John Smith of Groathill. Gray ruined his fortunes by his adherence to Montrose. The residence was sold about April 1719 to Elizabeth, grandchild of Lady Gray, heiress to Sir John Dundas of Newliston, and widow of John 1st Earl of Stair (1648–1707), and it is from her that the house gets its name.

Eleanor, 2nd Countess of Stair (formerly widow of 1st Viscount Primrose, 1680–1706), is supposed to have been the Lady Forester of Scott's *My Aunt Margaret's Mirror*.

Agnes, mother of 1st Lady Stair and widow of Sir John Dundas, married as her second husband Sir Archibald Primrose of Carrington (1616–79), their son Archibald becoming 1st Earl of Rosebery.

The present Earl of Rosebery, having acquired the mansion of his collateral ancestress in 1895, presented it to the City in 1907.

[Baxter's Close].—The 18th-century property of the Baxters or Bakers had to be demolished for the making of Bank Street.

Robert Burns (1759–96), coming " from the ploughtail as to an academy of gilt unbelief and artificial letters ", arrived from Ayrshire on 28th

LADY STAIR'S HOUSE.

[*See page* 16.

November 1786. He shared a room in Baxter's Close with John Richmond, writer's clerk from Mauchline, the landlady, Mrs Carfrae, charging 3s. for both lodgers. "This month", says Carlyle, "he is a ruined peasant, his wages seven pounds a year, and these gone from him; next month he is in the blaze of rank and beauty, handing down jewelled duchesses to dinner; the cynosure of all eyes."

In Baxter's Close lived the only child of William Hamilton Nisbet of Dirleton, wife of 7th Earl of Elgin. Whilst governess to Princess Charlotte (1796–1817), she acted as the medium of communication between the Princess and her parents (Caroline of Brunswick and the future King George IV.).

Wardrop's Court (451).—Here stood the house of William Scott, the first Professor of Greek in the University, by whom it was let to Richard Steele (1672–1729), when acting as commissioner for forfeited estates.

Paterson's Court (441).—The proprietors in this vicinity had gardens which sloped down to the Nor' Loch. French writers of the sixteenth century knew Edinburgh as Lislebourg.

The citizens of the Castle Hill and Lawnmarket had varied occupations, the Edinburgh Directory during the latter half of the 18th century giving the following:—money scrivener, inspector of window lights, mantua maker, clothes cleaner, gumflower maker, setter of

elegant rooms, fringe manufacturer, extractor, harpsichord and spinet maker.

Bank Street.—Although the structure in the Old Bank Close had its origin in 1695, the present Bank of Scotland, restored in 1870, was erected in 1806—the design being furnished by Richard Crichton and the expense being defrayed from unclaimed property in the Bank's keeping.

" Three men, evidently lawyers—Walter Scott, William Erskine, William Clerk—might have been seen escaping like schoolboys from the Parliament House, and ", says John Brown, " speeding arm-in-arm down Bank Street and the Mound, in the teeth of a surly blast of sleet." Erskine, afterwards Lord Kinedder, was one of Scott's companions on his voyage to the Orkneys, " the most intimate friend I had in the world " ; Clerk was the Darsie Latimer of *Redgauntlet*.

431 High Street.—Here between 1816 and 1828 was a cloth-merchant's shop occupied by father and son, each named David Bridges. The junior partner is described by Lockhart (1794–1854) as an " active, intelligent, and warm-hearted fellow who has a prodigious love for the fine arts, and lives on familiar terms with all the artists of Edinburgh ; around whom in consequence of these circumstances the whole connoisseurs and connoisseurship of the north have by degrees become clustered and concentrated, like the meeting of the red and yellow stripes in the back of a tartan jacket ".

(*a*) Trotter's Close. (*b*) Donaldson's Close. (*c*) Archibald's Close.

[*See page* 20.

Galloway's Close (425).—" There is at Edinburgh ", says the author of *Humphry Clinker*, " a society or corporation of errand-boys called caddies, who ply in the streets at night with paper lanterns, and are very serviceable in carrying messages. These fellows, though shabby in their appearance and rudely familiar in their address, are wonderfully acute, and so noted for fidelity, that there is no instance of a caddie's having betrayed his trust." " The moment a stranger arrived in Edinburgh ", adds Lockhart, " his face was sure to attract the observation of some of this indefatigable tribe, and they knew no rest till they had ascertained his name, residence, and condition. Whenever a stranger does arrive, it is the custom that he enters into a kind of tacit compact with one of the body, who is to perform all little offices he may require during the continuance of his visit." Colonel Mannering (according to Scott) committed Dominie Sampson to the charge of Miles Macfin, whom the waiter of the George Inn got at Luckie Finlayson's in the Cowgate.

423 High Street.—Robert Seton, who lived here in 1829, allowed Walter Scott and Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe to use a window from which to witness the execution of William Burke, an Irishman who murdered men and women and sold their bodies to anatomists. His accomplice, Hare, turned King's evidence. West of the stone well are three cross-stones in the roadway which mark the site of the gallows. On the

same spot was hanged in 1864 Bryce, the Ratho murderer—the occasion of the last public execution in Edinburgh.

Dunbar's Close (421).—Here in the 18th century lived a glover named Dunbar. One doubts whether Oliver Cromwell after his victory at Dunbar had a guard-house in this Close; tradition avers that he sat on the flat roof viewing his fleet in the Forth.

St Giles Street.—This street, whose name was suggested for the present Princes Street, is the boundary line between the Lawnmarket and the High Street proper.

LAWNMARKET—South Side

Free Church Assembly Hall.—This Hall, throughout the year Free St Columba's Gaelic Church, was originally St John's Free Church, whose greatest ornament, Dr Thomas Guthrie, first editor of the *Sunday Magazine*, was minister for about 25 years. Gladstone and Ruskin have worshipped in St John's.

[Donaldson's Close, 7 West Bow] led to a small court in which was the curious edifice described by Sir Daniel Wilson:—"It was only one storey high in addition to the attics, on the north side, while on the south it presented a lofty front to the Bow." Prince Charles Edward called, during the Highland occupation of the City, on the

LORD PROVOST STEWART'S RESIDENCE.

[*See page* 20.

PLATE XII.

Bow Head.

[*See page* 22.

proprietor, Lord Provost Archibald Stewart. The house was purchased by Alexander Donaldson, who established the *Edinburgh Advertiser* in 1764 and whose name is associated with the House of Lords' decision on Literary Property (1774). Here was born the son James Donaldson, printer, founder of Donaldson's Hospital.

West Bow.—The street zigzagged steeply down to the Grassmarket. Sovereigns generally entered the City by the Bow: it contained the gate built by King James II., the "Temple Bar", so to speak, at which each received the address of welcome. Mary Queen of Scots came by the Bow on her return from Dunbar, Bothwell leading her jennet; ten days later they were married.

John Porteous, captain of the City Guard, who appears in *The Heart of Midlothian*, was dragged down the Bow to his death in the Grassmarket, 7th September 1736. "The rioters were leading or carrying along with them the object of their vengeance," and when Porteous dropped one of his slippers, "they stopped," says Scott, "sought for it, and replaced it upon his foot with great deliberation."

Alexander Wilson, the Lord Provost, having been summoned to the House of Lords to account for the behaviour of the citizens, was asked what kind of shot the City Guard used at the hanging of his namesake. The Provost answered in his native dialect: "Such shot as in Scotland we shoot deuks and other fools with"—"deuks" being ducks, and "fools" fowls.

R. L. S. introduces the historic street into *Catriona*:—"I was in the saddle again before the day, and the Edinburgh booths were just opening, when I clattered in by the West Bow and drew up a smoking horse at my Lord Advocate's door."

[Bow Head Corner].—The Town Council of 1878 allowed the quaint, timber-fronted corner house to be removed, that which contained the shop of Thomas Nelson, bookseller, 2 West Bow. "I happen to have a most capricious memory," says W. E. Gladstone. "I will give you an instance. For there in the year 1826 I well remember purchasing from old Mr Nelson Isaac Barrow's *Sermons* in five volumes at the price of 26/–." (Lord Shaw, *Letters to Isabel.*)

Riddle's Close (322).—*Outer Court.* The house with the corbelled door, dated 1726, was the first home of Hume after his removal from Ninewells, Berwickshire, in 1751, and here he published *Political Discourses* and began the *History of England.* "Professedly a sceptic, though by no means an atheist," says Jupiter Carlyle, "he had the greatest simplicity of mind and manners with the utmost facility and benevolence of temper of any man I ever knew."

South-west of the courtyard stood Major Weir's Land, access being had from the West Bow. A devoted member of a strict set of Covenanters and possessing the facility of *extempore* prayer, he made voluntary confession of incest, sorcery, and murder. He was burned at

(*a*) Somerville's Land. (*b*) Mylne's Land. (*c*) Major Weir's Land.

[*See pages* 8, 13, 22.

Gallowlee (near Shrub Place) on 12th April 1670, while the accomplice, his sister Jean, was hanged in the Grassmarket. Thomas Weir had, as Major of the City Guard, full charge of Montrose when he lay in the Tolbooth waiting execution (1650). " My rheumatism is almost gone," Scott writes in the winter of 1827, " I can walk without Major Weir, which is the name Anne gives my cane, because it is so often out of the way that it is suspected, like the staff of that famous wizard, to be capable of locomotion."

Inner Court. Here may be seen dormer windows, a window with the lower half a wooden shutter, gargoyles, a crane support, and a bust of Socrates.

Bailie John Macmorran, the merchant who owned the mansion, went to the High School to deal with certain boys whose conduct had been unsatisfactory after they heard of a shortened vacation. They barred themselves into the class-rooms, and, when trying to force the door, Macmorran was shot dead by William Sinclair (1595). Eight of the boys seem to have been confined for a few days in the Tolbooth.

Here at " Macmorran's Lodging " in 1598 the City banqueted King James VI., his Queen (Anne of Denmark), with her brother, the Duke of Holstein. The hall with its quaint panels is well worth a visit.

In this Court lived Sir John Smith of Groathill, the Edinburgh Provost of 1643, one of the commissioners who proceeded to Breda to assure King Charles II. of Scots loyalty.

Here the Lord Advocate (Prestongrange) and David Balfour of *Catriona* are supposed to have met.

Fisher's Close (312).—The town residence of the Buccleuchs.

Henry 3rd Duke (1746–1812), travelling abroad with his brother Hew, had as tutor Dr Adam Smith, author of *The Wealth of Nations*. Smith met Hume in Paris, as well as Voltaire, le Sage, and Turgot.

Brodie's Close (304).—The Close once extended from the Lawnmarket to the Cowgate.

In Roman Eagle Hall met the Lodge Roman Eagle, No. 160, whose charter was granted on 7th February 1785 and whose first Master was Dr John Brown, founder of the Brownonian System of Medicine. For some years the members, principally medical men, wrote their records in Latin. The plaster ceiling is dated 1645 and 1646.

William Brodie, Town Councillor and Deacon of the Wrights, lived here—" well seen in good society, crafty with his hands as a cabinet-maker, and one who could sing a song with taste " (R. L. S.). W. E. Henley and Stevenson collaborated in *The Double Life* :—" On with the new coat and into the new life. Down with the deacon, and up with the robber ! There's something in hypocrisy after all. If we were as good as we seem, what would the world be ? " Breaking into the General Excise Office in Chessels'

BRODIE'S CLOSE.

[*See page* 24.

Court, Brodie abstracted a few pounds. Arrested at Amsterdam, he was tried in Edinburgh before four judges; Braxfield ("Weir of Hermiston") presided, the jury including Burns's Edinburgh publisher (William Creech) and the Founders of Donaldson's Hospital and Fettes College. Brodie and his accomplice, George Smith, grocer, were hanged at the Tolbooth on 1st October 1788. A confederate of Brodie's, John Brown, perhaps the biggest rogue of the party, turned King's evidence at the trial. Brodie bribed the executioner to allow him to wear a steel collar to prevent strangulation, and, after being hanged, Brodie was wheeled rapidly along the street—all to no purpose!

Buchanan's Court (300).—The uppermost window of the spiral staircase affords a panoramic vista; the buildings from Riddle's Close to Buchanan's Court date from the reign of King Charles I.

Buchanan's Land is reputed to occupy the site of the residence of the Abbot of Cambuskenneth.

Mr William Wastle of *Peter's Letters* had in the Lawnmarket "a very snug house, although by no means in a fashionable part of the town. From a feeling of respect for his ancestors, he refuses to quit the old family residence, which is no other than a lodging up five pair of stairs, in one of those huge aerial edifices of the Old Town —edifices which sometimes contain beneath a single roof a population, layer above layer, household above household, more numerous than that

of many a street in many a city south of the ideal line."

George IV. Bridge.—[Old Bank Close], practically in a line with the west pavement of Melbourne Place, contained the residence of Robert Gourlay, messenger-at-arms at Holyrood, and a favourite with King James VI.

To Gourlay's "Lodging", then occupied by the English Commander at the siege of the Castle in 1573, were conducted Kirkcaldy, Maitland of Lethington, and others who had surrendered.

The ex-Regent Morton spent the last days of his life here, and in his conferences with the clergy protested his innocence of Darnley's murder. He was beheaded with the Maiden in 1581. "'Tis an axe, man, an axe, which falls of itself like a sash window, and never gives the headsman the trouble to wield it" (*The Abbot*).

King James VI. himself resided in the Gourlay house 1593–94.

At the upper end of Old Bank Close Lord President Sir George Lockhart was shot by a disappointed litigant, John Chiesley of Dalry, in 1689. The murderer was hanged with the pistol round his neck. Says Scott in *The Bride of Lammermoor*:—"The fate of Chiesley was a sufficient warning to any one who should dare to assume the office of avenger of his own imaginary wrongs."

In this Close was founded the Bank of Scotland (1695).

OLD BANK CLOSE (Gourlay House on left).

[*See page* 26.

[Libberton's Wynd] is associated with Johnnie Dowie's Tavern, an inn not infrequently patronised by the poets Fergusson and Burns. Dowie figures in Kay's *Portraits*.

From each stone well standing in the High Street—known in the North of England as the "pant"—water was carried to the lofty compounds by male and female porters.

> There, from the earth the labouring porters bear
> The elements of fire and water high in air.

Buccleuch Statue.—Walter 5th Duke of Buccleuch (1806–84), when a lad of sixteen, entertained King George IV. for a fortnight at Dalkeith House. Scott wrote of him four years later:—"If God and the world spare him, he will be far known as a true Scots lord." The statue is by Sir Edgar Boehm, while the pedestal with scenes from the history of the Clan Scott—each the work of an Edinburgh sculptor—was designed by Sir Rowand Anderson.

[Tolbooth].—At the north-west corner of St Giles's Church stood the Tolbooth, "Heart of Midlothian" (removed 1817). Paving stones mark the boundaries of the Prison, the "heart" denoting approximately the position of the door.

The Prison was sold for the trifling sum of two hundred and some odd pounds, and swept away on the erection of a more suitable place on the Calton Hill. The "high and antique building with turrets and iron grates" was the meeting-place of the Scots Parliament, serving in succession

as Town Hall, as chambers for the Privy Council, as College of Justice, and after 1640 as Prison. "A living grave. But yet I wish the building had been spared. It was of great age; it was incorporated with much curious history; and its outside was picturesque" (Cockburn). To the north gable were affixed pikes for the heads of distinguished victims of the law. The rebels of the first Jacobite Rising were confined in the Tolbooth. In the condemned cell of the Tolbooth lay the unhappy Effie Deans of Scott's *Heart of Midlothian*. "Many a poor devil dangled like a tassel at the west end of it, while the hawkers were shouting a confession the culprit had never heard of" (Scott).

The annex of two storeys projected westwards, its roof forming the scaffold for criminals, such as Deacon Brodie.

[Luckenbooths].—In the High Street stood the Luckenbooths (*i.e.* locked booths), removed 1817. The passage between the west Luckenbooths and the houses on the north side of the High Street was some fifteen feet wide. "This would be undoubtedly one of the noblest streets in Europe, if an ugly mass of mean buildings, called the Luckenbooths, had not thrust itself, by what accident I know not, into the middle of the way, like Middle-Row in Holborn" (Smollett).

The first floor of the eastern Luckenbooths was occupied by Allan Ramsay on his removal in 1726 from "The Sign of the Mercury"; here he set up the first circulating library in Scotland.

In front of the shop were displayed models of the heads of Ben Jonson and Drummond of Hawthornden, familiar to the citizens as "The Twa Heids". Gay, of *Beggar's Opera* fame, when in Edinburgh with the Duke and Duchess of Queensberry in 1732, the last year of his life, enjoyed sitting at Ramsay's windows. Smollett, who describes Edinburgh as "a hot-bed of genius", pictures in *Humphry Clinker* the scene when "all the people of business at Edinburgh, and even the genteel company, may be seen standing in crowds every day, from one to two in the afternoon, in the open street".

Ramsay's premises sixty years later were used by the booksellers, Alexander Kincaid and William Creech, each in turn Lord Provost of the City. Creech (1745–1815) was one of the founders of the Speculative Society in 1764, a select body with which Walter Scott and R. L. Stevenson were actively connected. The position of Creech's shop "in the very tideway of all our business made it", says Cockburn, "the natural resort of lawyers, authors, and all sorts of literary idlers, who were always buzzing about the convenient hive".

Between the Luckenbooths and St Giles's ran a sombre passage called the ["Krames"], early editions of the *Edinburgh Directory* spelling the name "Creams". "Shopless traffickers first began to nestle there about the year 1550 or 1560, and their successors stuck to the spot till 1817, when they were all swept away." "In my boyhood", says Cockburn, "their little stands, each

enclosed in a tiny room of its own, and during the day all open to the little footpath that ran between the two rows of them, and all glittering with attractions, contained everything fascinating to childhood, but chiefly toys. It was like one of the Arabian Nights' bazaars in Bagdad. Throughout the whole year it was an enchantment. Let anyone fancy what it was about the New Year, when every child had got its handsel, and every farthing of every handsel was spent there. The Krames was the paradise of childhood."

ST GILES'S

High Kirk (St Giles's).—A church stood on this site in the first quarter of the twelfth century. King Richard II. is said to have "committed to the flames the noble town of Edinburgh, with the Church of St Giles" (1385). The date is important, for two years later the Town Council began to enlarge the Church by adding five chapels on the south of the nave (from the west gable to the south transept); and from this date nearly until the Reformation the Church increased in length, breadth, and height; for example, the capitals of the pillars in the nave were at one time seven courses lower than those now existing. The Cathedral, said to be the sixth in size in Scotland, stands by the side of the highway, like all other churches dedicated to St Giles. Some years after the Reformation there were three divisions—the High, the Old, and the Tolbooth Church; a fourth being formed in 1689—the

PLATE XVI.

EDINBURGH TOLBOOTH.

[*See page* 27.

New Church or "Haddo's Hole"—where Sir John Gordon of Haddo, a Royalist member of the Aberdeen family, was imprisoned till beheaded in 1644. Founding the bishopric of Edinburgh in 1633—Edinburgh had until now been in the diocese of St Andrews—King Charles I. made St Giles's his Cathedral, ordering the partitions to be removed from end to end: the first Bishop was William Forbes. Some forty years previous to the Revolution of 1690 the partitions seem to have been replaced. A Church of England clergyman, James Brome by name, travelling in Scotland, mentions that in 1669 the Cathedral was "divided into six sermon houses". The Church, as Johnson observed in 1773, had lost its original magnificence "by being divided into four places of presbyterian worship". "'Come,' said Johnson jocularly to Principal Robertson, 'let me see what was once a church.' We entered that division which was formerly called the New Church, and of late the High Church, so well known by the eloquence of Dr Hugh Blair" (Boswell). The Cathedral was unfortunately given over to the "tender mercies" of William Burn, architect, whose hands it left in 1834 a brave kirk, of well-jointed mason work, no longer possessing what Andrew Fairservice calls "curlie-wurlies and open-steek hems" (*Rob Roy*).

The Choir of the Cathedral was renovated in 1873 by William Chambers, LL.D. (1800–83), publisher, a former Lord Provost. Some years later Dr Chambers restored the remainder of the building, encasing the old walls in new masonry,

and the church was reopened on 23rd May 1883. Chambers had accepted the offer of a baronetcy made to him by Gladstone, and the baronetcy would have been announced on the anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria, 24th May, had Dr Chambers not died four days before.

In the south transept was buried Lord James Stewart, Earl of Moray, "a good and godly governor", assassinated at Linlithgow in 1570. Knox preached the funeral sermon.

On Sunday, 23rd July 1637, a riot was caused by the attempted introduction of the King Charles I. prayer-book, commonly known as "Laud's Liturgy". The tradition is that during the fracas a woman threw her stool at the Dean with the words:—"Will ye say mass at my lug?"

The Crown Tower of St Giles's was built in 1648. Under this Tower rested the body of Earl Haig (4th-7th February 1928).

The remains of James Graham, 1st Marquis of Montrose (1612–50), "the stainless Cavalier", were laid in the Chepman Aisle eleven years after his execution, while in 1888 a monument was erected over the grave at the instigation of Queen Victoria.

Criminals under sentence of death attended service in the Tolbooth Church (the south-west portion of the Cathedral) every Sunday previous to execution. When the congregation had all but assembled one Sunday morning in 1736, Andrew Wilson, smuggler, seized two of the guard, fastening his teeth in the collar of a

ST GILES'S TOWER.

[*See page* 32.

third, thus enabling George Robertson, a companion in misfortune, to escape. John Porteous, Captain of the City Guard, was on duty at Wilson's execution in the Grassmarket; when a disturbance arose, his men opened fire, killing some spectators and wounding others. As the result of this, Porteous was sentenced to death. Queen Caroline granted a respite for six weeks, at the end of which period King George II. was expected home from the Continent. The postponement led to the Porteous Riots. When Alexander Carlyle, D.D., Jupiter Carlyle of Inveresk (1722–1805), was a boy, he was taken by an acquaintance to church to see Wilson and Robertson, and later, from a window in the Grassmarket, Carlyle saw the execution of Wilson. "I remember hearing we had a riot in Edinburgh when I was an infant child," says David Balfour in *Catriona*, "which gave occasion to the late Queen to call this country barbarous."

The paved court to the south of St Giles's was a garden until 1477 when the Provost of the Church converted it into a graveyard extending down to the Cowgate. A stone with the letters I. K. and 1572 is supposed to indicate the last resting-place of Knox. "He sleeps within call of the church that so often echoed to his preaching," says R. L. Stevenson. "Here lies one who never feared the face of man," observed the Regent Morton, standing bare-headed at the grave of the Reformer.

After John Knox the best-known ministers are Alexander Henderson (1583–1646), a keen

opponent of "Laud's Liturgy" and a promoter of the National League and Covenant; Principal William Carstares (1649–1715), the most influential personage in Britain during the reign of King William III.; Hugh Blair (1718–1800). "I love Blair's sermons," said Dr Johnson. "Though the dog is a Scotsman and a Presbyterian, and everything he should not be, I was the first to praise them!" Johnson wished Blair to "come over to the Church of England".

In unveiling the Memorial to R. L. S. in the Moray Aisle, Lord Rosebery said:—"Is it not a pathetic thought that this Scottish genius, so preeminently Scottish, should have laid his bones, not in the Lothians that he loved so well, or even in the land which he adorned with his genius, but in the far distant islands of the Pacific?"

In the Parliament Close—Cockburn's "most continental-looking spot in Edinburgh"—was situated the print-shop of John Kay (1742–1826), early in life a barber and later a miniature-painter and caricaturist, whose portrait sketches—Kay's *Portraits*—furnish a picture of the Edinburgh of those days.

The equestrian statue of King Charles II. stands in Parliament Square (formerly Close). After the fire of November 1824 the figure was removed for safety to the Calton Jail, where it lay for eleven years.

On the west and south sides of the Cathedral stood the booths of booksellers, furriers, watchmakers, goldsmiths; one booth, only seven feet square, belonged to George Heriot (1563–1624),

BISHOP BOTHWELL'S HOUSE.

[*See page* 36.

who bequeathed his fortune to found a school for boys. Heriot advanced sums of money to King James VI. and his Queen, and so important a personage did he become that an apartment was assigned to him in Holyroodhouse. Heriot is the "Jingling Geordie" of *The Fortunes of Nigel.*

Another booth was that of Peter Williamson (1730–99), from Aboyne, who published the first Edinburgh Directory (1773) and established a penny post.

HIGH STREET—North Side

Regia Via are the words used in old writs for the King's highway.

"I descended lower to the City wherein I observed the fairest, the goodliest streete that ever mine eyes beheld, for I did never see or heare of a streete of that length" (John Taylor, 1580–1653, the Water-Poet).

"The principal street of Edinburgh was then, as now, one of the most spacious in Europe," writes Scott in *The Abbot.* "The extreme height of the houses, and the variety of Gothic gables, and battlements, and balconies, by which the sky-line on each side was crowned and terminated, together with the width of the street itself, might have struck with surprise a more practised eye than that of young Graeme."

Byres Close (373).—On the left resided John Byres, merchant, a "truly good and excellent citizen", who about 1610 purchased the estate

of Coittes (Coates), where St Mary's Cathedral now stands. Rising to be City Treasurer, Bailie, Dean of Guild, and the so-called " Old Provost ", he died in 1629 aged 60. His son, Sir John Byres, erected East Coates House.

Down the Close on the right the house is extant of Adam Bothwell (d. 1593), Bishop of Orkney, Lord of Session, and Commendator of Holyrood, who " after the protestant form " married Mary Stuart to James Hepburn, Lord Bothwell (15th May 1567), Darnley having been murdered so recently as 10th February. The same Bishop Bothwell crowned Queen Mary's son at Stirling five days after her abdication.

The hexagonal apse (best seen from Advocate's Close) has Latin mottoes over the dormer windows :—Exitus acta probat (Ovid) (The end justifies the deed) : Nihil est ex omni parte beatum (Horace) (There is no such thing in the world as unmixed happiness).

In the High Street between Byres Close and the Advocate's stood the abode of Sir William Dick of Braid (d. 1655). Dick was one of those who lent money to King James VI., and, while Provost of Edinburgh, he financed the Covenanters (1638–39).

In *The Heart of Midlothian* Scott represents David Deans as saying that his father saw men " toom the sacks of dollars out o' Provost Dick's window *intill* the carts that carried them to the army at Dunse Law ". Dick advanced £20,000 for the cause of King Charles II., the Parliamentary party ultimately fining him £65,000.

Reduced to indigence, he proceeded to London in the hope of recovering £160,000, which he had lent on government security. He was more than once imprisoned for petty debts, and, when he died in his lodgings at Westminster, his means were such as to deny him a decent burial.

The Scots judge Coalstoun, when residing in Byres Close, happened one morning to lean out of his window, gowned and wigged. Two tomboys of the upper floor were suspending a kitten by means of a string. The tradition is that the kitten seized his Lordship's wig!

Sir William Dick's house was subsequently occupied by the 1st Earl of Kintore, hence the Cantore's or Kintyre's Close of early Directories. The Regalia of Scotland having been removed by Mrs Grainger from Dunnottar to Kinneff, the mother of Kintore circulated a report that her son had carried the Regalia abroad.

Advocate's Close (357).—The Close takes its name from Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees, whose residence was demolished in 1882. Twice Lord Advocate (1692–1709 and 1711–13), he witnessed the Restoration, the Revolution, and the Union.

In Advocate's Close two centuries later resided Andrew Crosbie, advocate (d. 1785), one of the two characters whom Scott pictured as Counsellor Pleydell in *Guy Mannering*. "On entering the house, Mannering was struck with the narrowness and meanness of the wainscotted passage. But the library into which he was shown by an elderly, respectable-looking man-servant, was a

simple contrast to these unpromising appearances"; and Mannering was delighted "with the view from the windows which commanded that incomparable prospect of the ground between Edinburgh and the sea—the Firth of Forth, with its islands".

When Johnson visited Edinburgh in 1773, Andrew Crosbie was the only man who, in Stowell's opinion, "was disposed to stand up (as the phrase is) to Johnson".

Crosbie forsook Advocate's Close for a mansion on the east side of St Andrew Square, which became the Douglas Hotel and in which Scott spent the last two nights in his own romantic town.

A door in the Close is inscribed C. C.—H. B. 1590—Clement Cor and Helen Bellenden.

Roxburgh's Close (341).—Here in the reign of King James VI. lived a cook named John Roxburgh.

The Close has no connection with the ducal family of Roxburghe.

Warriston Close (323).—The buildings in this stretch of the High Street used until recently to have arcaded fronts.

In Warriston Close, which contains the establishment of Messrs W. & R. Chambers, stood the house occupied between 1560 and 1566 by John Knox, whom Carlyle styled "an old Hebrew prophet in the guise of an Edinburgh minister of the sixteenth century".

PLATE XIX.

ADVOCATE'S CLOSE.

[*See page* 37.

Here stood the residence of Archibald Johnston (1611–63), who resisted King Charles I. in an attempt to force the English ritual upon the Kirk, and who was one of the framers of the National Covenant to oppose whatever tended towards prelacy. Among concessions to the Covenanters, the King three years later made Johnston a lord of session, when he took the courtesy title of Lord Wariston (1641). Eventually a member of the Cromwell House of Peers, he was singled out at the Restoration and hanged at the Mercat Cross (1663). King Charles II.'s desire for the execution of this " canny, lynx-eyed lawyer and austere presbyterian zealot " was such that Lauderdale protested against delay.

Writers' Court (315).—Long ago a notice-board hung here — " Writers' Court ". The Writers to the Signet, a prominent legal body, had found a home for their Library in 1699.

Chrystal Croftangry, the imaginary editor of *Chronicles of the Canongate*, a young barrister with no fees, " laughed and made others laugh, and drank claret at Walker's ", an old tavern in Writers' Court.

Another haunt was " The Star and Garter ", kept by one Clerihugh, and there Colonel Mannering and Dandie Dinmont saw Pleydell and his frolicsome company in " high jinks ".

In this vicinity lived Alexander Nasmyth (1758–1840), portrait and landscape painter. Robert Burns was the artist's most distinguished sitter. They used to walk together to Arthur's Seat.

Royal Exchange.—Erected in 1753–61 and enlarged in 1901, this building, intended for the use of merchants who had hitherto transacted business in Parliament Close, became the City Chambers, *i.e.* Town Hall. The Royal Exchange marked the first instalment of an Improvement Scheme initiated by Lord Provost George Drummond (1687–1766). Drummond used to tell his friends that he was not the projector of the Scheme—he was only executing what the unfortunate King James VII. proposed as Duke of York.

In the Court in front of the City Chambers stands Sir John Steill's group of Alexander and Bucephalus.

Archbishop Beaton says that, after the surrender at Carberry Hill, Queen Mary was lodged "fornent the croce, upon the north syd of the gait" in the residence then occupied by Sir Simon Preston (*fl.* 1538–70), of Preston and Craigmillar, Provost of Edinburgh. Once one of the Queen's trusted friends, Preston supported the Lords after her marriage with Bothwell, and historians favour the view that Sir Simon Preston, accordingly, conducted the Queen to his "loging" in Fleshmarket Close.

"Within the Exchange" lived for some years Alexander Wood (1725–1807), surgeon, who was consulted regarding Scott's lameness. It was "Lang Sandy Wood", too, who attended Burns in St James's Square after an accident to his knee and who got him a post under the Commissioners of Excise.

PLATE XX.

CRAIG'S CLOSE.

[*See page* 41.

Allan's Close (269).—Here Deacon Brodie concealed skeleton keys, crowbars, and other unlawful tools.

Craig's Close (265).—The lintel of the principal doorway is inscribed 1744.

In Craig's Close stood the printing house of Andrew Hart (d. 1621), who brought out an edition of the Bible (1610); while in the same Close James Watson is reputed to have printed his *Choice Collection of Comic and Serious Scottish Poems*, the medium by which Burns became acquainted with the older poets.

In the Close resided Burns's Edinburgh publisher, William Creech (1745–1815), and later, Scott's publisher, Archibald Constable (1774–1827).

During Creech's absence in London in 1787, Burns addressed him in the humorous poem, *Willie's Awa*.

Here Archibald Constable is believed to have resided in 1795. The opening chapters of *Waverley* having been shown to Constable in 1814, he detected the authorship, and arranged afterwards to publish the novel and to divide the profits with the Author. The firms of Constable and Ballantyne becoming insolvent, Scott found himself involved to the extent of £120,000. "Poor Mr Pole, the harper, sent to offer me £500 or £600, probably his all," writes Scott. "There is much good in the world, after all. But I will involve no friend, either rich or poor. My own right hand shall do it." In 1827 Scott

spoke of Constable as " a prince of booksellers ; his views sharp, powerful, and liberal ; too sanguine, however, and like many bold and successful schemers, never knowing when to stand or stop, and not always calculating his means to his objects with mercantile accuracy ". In the *Chronicles of the Canongate*, written after the commercial catastrophe, the romancer wrote of himself :—" I bought, and built, and planted, and was considered by myself as by the rest of the world, in the safe possession of an easy fortune. My riches, however, like the other riches of this world, were liable to accidents, under which they were ultimately destined to take unto themselves wings and fly away. The year 1825, so disastrous to many branches of industry and commerce, did not spare the market of literature ; and the sudden ruin that fell on so many of the booksellers could scarcely have been expected to leave unscathed one whose career had of necessity connected him deeply and extensively with the pecuniary transactions of that profession." From a window of Constable's house Scott and the youthful Prince Gustavus, son of the ex-King of Sweden, witnessed the proclamation of King George IV. at the Mercat Cross. " On that occasion ", according to Lockhart, " the air of sadness that mixed in the Prince's features with eager curiosity, was very affecting."

The *Edinburgh Review* being founded in 1802 by Sydney Smith, Jeffrey, Horner, and Brougham, the confederates used to meet secretly at " a dingy room off Willison's printing-office in Craig's

OLD POST OFFICE CLOSE.

[*See page* 43.

Close", Willison having been the father-in-law of Constable.

Old Post Office Close (253).—The Post Office, which was here in the reign of King George I., was moved to a stair on the south side of Parliament Close, one letter-carrier sufficing for the needs of the City. The Post Office seems later to have been housed behind the Law Courts in a building once occupied by Lockhart of Covington. The Post Office was afterwards "the northmost house on the west side of the North Bridge"; next it stood on the Regent Bridge; finally the Crown erected the present G.P.O.

At Matthew Thomson's Tavern in the Old Post Office Close, the Wagering Club, which to-day meets in Edinburgh on the last Monday of January, held its first annual meeting. It was founded in 1775 by Bain Whyt, W.S., "whose happy flow of humour, moral worth, and genuine kindness endeared him to all his friends".

Anchor Close (243).—This Close contained the town house of Lord Provost George Drummond, the first Master of the Merchant Company (1681).

A later Lord Provost of the same name was called "the father of the Infirmary", and it was during the sixth and last period of his provostship that the Nor' Loch was drained.

In the Close William Smellie (1740–95), printer, naturalist, antiquary, printed the first edition of *The Encyclopaedia Britannica* (three

volumes). The firm, Creech and Smellie, produced the Edinburgh edition of Burns's Poems, 1787. The poet himself read the proofs on the premises. Smellie introduced Burns to the Crochallan Club, which met in a tavern in Anchor Close. The Club got its name from a Gaelic song which the landlord, Daniel Douglas, sang to his customers; the members included Hon. Henry Erskine, Lord Newton, Lord Rockville.

Geddes Entry (233).—Geddes seems to have been a surgeon. The Cape Club sometimes held its meetings in Walter Scott's Tavern in this entry. In the course of his inauguration each member had to kiss a large poker reverently, and take his designation from some scrape in which he had been involved.

No. 231. — "Opposite the guard" stood (and still stands) the shop of James Gillespie (1726–97), founder of Gillespie's Hospital, who manufactured snuff at Spylaw, Colinton. See medallion on wall.

No. 227.—"Above Gillespie's Shop" died in 1826 John Kay, caricaturist, whose own shop was in Parliament Close.

North Foulis Close (229).—The town house, perhaps, of Munro of Foulis (Ross-shire), Colonel Sir Hector Munro being created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1634.

Sir Harry Munro, 7th baronet, was uncle to Henry Mackenzie, "The Man of Feeling".

Old Stamp Office Close (221).—Here until 1821 was situated the Stamp Office, and here from 1727 to 1753 was the Royal Bank.

In the Close resided for some years Susanna, (1689–1780), wife of 9th Earl of Eglintoun, mother of 10th and 11th Earls, the personage to whom Allan Ramsay dedicated *The Gentle Shepherd*, " in a fulsome style of panegyric ", and to whom he presented the original manuscript. " She was of the noble house of Kennedy," says Boswell, " and had all the elevation which the consciousness of such birth inspires. Her figure was majestic, her manners high-bred, her reading extensive, and her conversation elegant. She had been the admiration of the gay circles of life, and the patroness of poets." The Countess received Dr Johnson at Auchans in Ayrshire on his return from the Hebrides in 1773. Then in her eighty-fifth year, and married the year before he was born, she told him " that she might have been his mother and that she now adopted him ; and when we were going away ", says Boswell, " she embraced him, saying, ' My dear son, farewell ' ". The Countess and her seven daughters were noted for gracefulness of feature—" the Eglintoun air ". One of Edinburgh's attractions was seeing them leave by sedan chairs for the Assembly Rooms.

The Eglintoun residence became between 1750 and 1787 a fashionable tavern, John Fortune's ; it existed until about 1796. The Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly held levees in Fortune's, thence proceeding to St Giles's, even

ladies in court dress walking in the procession. The Earl of Hopetoun entertained here while Lord High Commissioner in 1754.

Flora Macdonald (1722–90), the heroine of 1746, finished her education at a boarding-school in this Close.

The Poker Club, instituted in 1762, moved after some years to Fortune's, the members including Adam Ferguson, David Hume, Hugh Blair, Joseph Black, Adam Smith.

It was at Fortune's that the Wig Club originally met in 1775. Chambers says the Wigs usually drank the old Scottish ale called Twopenny, with which "they ate souters' clods, a coarse, lumpish kind of loaf".

Scott and Jeffrey, it will be remembered, one day "rushed from George Square" to sup at Fortune's.

Jackson's Close (209).—The houses in this vicinity are of old date.

William Nicol (1744–97), a classical scholar, whom Walter Scott, his pupil, condemned as "worthless, drunken, and inhumanly cruel to the boys under his charge", left the High School to open an academy in Jackson's Land "for instructing young gentlemen in the Latin language". Nicol accompanied Burns during a three weeks' tour in the Highlands, starting on 25th August 1787; Burns had spent the previous eighteen days with this "obstinate son of Latin prose" in a flat over Buccleuch Pend.

ALLAN RAMSAY'S SHOP AND HOUSE (ON LEFT).

[*See page* 48.

Fleshmarket Close (199).—Here resided David Aikenhead, Provost four times in the 17th century, the Close being sometimes called "The Provost's."

The third floor was occupied by Henry Dundas, Lord Melville (1742–1811), when he first practised as advocate.

Cameron's Tavern was the meeting-place of the Marrow-Bone Club, whose members were all Whigs and whose motto was "Nil nisi bonum".

Cockburn Street.—The thoroughfare is named out of compliment to the Scots judge, Lord Cockburn (1779–1854).

The cellar of the National Bank in the High Street was at one time the dingy tavern, the Union Cellar, where some of the signatures were obtained for the Treaty of Union (1707).

[177 High Street].—From the cellar "opposite the Tron Kirk", that is, from the laigh shop of W. Bell at 177 High Street, the coach described by Scott in *The Antiquary* started for *the* Queen's Ferry.

"The lady of the subterranean mansion" was then Mrs Macleuchar, "a sharp-looking dame, with a pair of spectacles on a very thin nose, who inhabited a '*laigh* shop' (that is, cellar)—opening to the High Street by a strait and steep stair, at the bottom of which she sold tape, thread, needles, skeans of worsted, coarse linen cloth, and such feminine gear."

[Cap and Feather Close]. Swept away for the North Bridge. Here was born Robert Fergusson (1750–74), whom Burns styled " my elder brother in misfortune, by far my elder brother in the muses ". The son of Aberdeenshire parents, he was hailed at twenty-one as the successor of Allan Ramsay. A fall down some steps necessitated his removal to a primitive asylum near Bristo Port, where he died.

North Bridge.—The present structure dates from 1900. The foundation stone of the first bridge across the valley was laid in 1763 by " that noble-minded citizen of Edinburgh ", Lord Provost Drummond, but when nearly completed in 1769, a portion of the bridge fell, burying some persons in the ruins. The site of the bridge was formerly the bed of the Nor' Loch. The Bridge was opened in 1772. When the Fish Market was removed to a place under the North Bridge, " there was an outcry as if hereditary nastiness, like other abuses, had been made by time necessary for comfort " (Cockburn).

Carrubber's Close (135).—Opposite this stands the old well, in a line with which stood the forestair leading to the premises of Allan Ramsay at " The Sign of the Mercury ". The register recording the baptism of his children styles him a " piriwige " maker in 1713, a " weegmaker " in 1714, a bookseller in 1725. Here he issued *The Ever Green*, a collection of Scots Poems (1724), and *The Gentle Shepherd* (1725). Leigh Hunt

JOHN KNOX HOUSE.

[*See page* 54.

regarded Ramsay as " in some respects the best pastoral writer in the world ". In Carrubber's Close Ramsay built " at vast expense " a theatre, for which the magistrates, influenced by the clergy, refused to grant a licence.

In this Close resided John Spottiswood (1565–1639), Archbishop of St Andrews and Scots historian. King Charles I. wished him to have precedence before the Lord Chancellor of Scotland, but, on the death of Kinnoull in 1635, Spottiswood himself became Chancellor. He it was who crowned King Charles I. at Holyrood in 1633, being assisted by bishops " in white rochets and sleeves, and copes of gold having blue silk to their feet ", a ceremonial which estranged the King's Scottish subjects.

In this Close at the house of Samuel Mitchelson, Writer to the Signet, Matthew Bramble dined on " singed sheep's head and haggis ". " The first ", says Smollett, " put me in mind of the history of Congo, in which I read of negroes' heads sold publicly in the markets. The last, being a mess of minced lights, livers, suet, oatmeal, onions, and pepper, enclosed in a sheep's stomach, had a very sudden effect on mine, and the delicate Mrs Tabby changed colour."

Henry Mackenzie regarded Mitchelson as an uncommonly good performer on the German flute.

One of Mitchelson's apprentices was Robert Ainslie, W.S. (1766–1838), who, as a young man, made an excursion with Robert Burns into Teviotdale and Berwickshire in 1787.

Bishop's Close (129).—The original residence appears to have been built by Thomas Saintserf or Sydeserf (1581–1663), successively Bishop of Brechin, Galloway, and Orkney. His friendship with Archbishop Laud made him a mark for the violence of the Presbyterians.

Henry Dundas, Lord Melville, was born at Bishop's Land in 1742. The Melville column, in St Andrew Square, was wont to remind the Ettrick Shepherd of " some giant condemned to perpetual imprisonment on his pedestal, and mournin' ower the desolation of the city that in life he loved so well, unheeded and unhonoured for a season in the great metropolitan heart o' the country which he aince rejoiced to enrich and beautify, telling and teaching her how to hold up her head bauldly among the nations " (*Noctes Ambrosianae*).

Among the residenters of the " land " in 1752 was Lady Jane Douglas Stewart (1698–1753), the talented daughter of 2nd Marquess of Douglas. In 1746 Lady Jane was married at Drumsheugh House to Colonel (afterwards Sir John) Stewart of Grandtully, two years later giving birth to twins at Paris. She was then fifty years of age. In 1752 she returned from Paris to Edinburgh. In April 1753 the younger twin died, the mother seven months later. In 1754 Lady Jane's brother, Duke of Douglas (1694–1761), settled his huge estates on the Hamiltons, but in six years he revoked the settlement in favour of his surviving nephew. The Court of Session, sitting in Holyroodhouse, decided for the ducal house of

Hamilton by eight votes to seven, the House of Lords reversing the judgment two years afterwards.

In 1790 Archibald Stewart was created Lord Douglas of Douglas, a title now extinct.

In Bishop's Land during the winter of 1786–87 Burns got three lessons in French every week from Louis Cauvin, junior (1754–1825), afterwards founder of Cauvin's Hospital for Boys at Duddingston. Cauvin's father, said to have been a footman in the family of Lady Jane Douglas, may have come over from France as a witness in the Douglas Lawsuit.

North Gray's Close (125).—Down in Jeffrey Street stands the Episcopal Chapel built after the congregation were ejected from St Giles's. It became the religious centre of the Jacobite party in the City. Here have worshipped Baroness Nairne, ballad-writer; William Edmonstoune Aytoun, poet; Sir Henry Raeburn, R.A. To Sir William Forbes of Pitsligo, banker, is owing the credit of giving Scottish episcopalians "a real and sure standing" in Edinburgh.

Morrison's Close (117).—The vaulted ground-floor of a house here served as the oratory of a religious body.

John Ruskin's grandfather moved to this Close from Kennedy's.

Bailie Fyfe's Close (107).—Gilbert Fyfe was the senior bailie of Edinburgh in 1686. Here

Francis Jeffrey (1773–1850), editor of the *Edinburgh Review*, and afterwards Scots judge, attended John Cockburn's school; at eight he was transferred to the High School.

Nathaniel Gow (1766–1831), son of Niel Gow, resided in Bailie Fyfe's Close when a young man; as a teacher of the violin and pianoforte he commanded the highest fees, and sometimes played at the private parties given by King George IV.

Paisley Close (101).—The High Street shop on the right of the opening was that of Lord Provost Sir William Fettes, Bart. (1750–1836), founder of Fettes College. A wine and tea merchant, he was also a contractor for military stores.

Chalmers Close (81).—Here stood the town house of the Hopes, ancestors of the Marquess of Linlithgow.

At the lower end of the Close stands Trinity College Church, and at the back has been re-erected a small portion of the Church founded in 1462 by King James II.'s Queen, Mary of Gueldres, and removed to make way for a siding at the Waverley Station. It was one of the best models of Gothic architecture in Scotland; the high windows were specially fine.

On the morning of Sunday, 24th November 1861, Nos. 99 to 103 High Street, a structure similar to Buchanan's Temperance Hotel (No. 76), " ran together with a hideous uproar and tumbled story upon story to the ground ", no fewer than

thirty-five persons being killed. When the rescuers were at work, a boy, pinned down by the debris, was heard shouting: "Heave awa', lads, I'm no deid yet." The keystone of the modern arch bears the boy's head. The civil engineers who reported on the accident, ascribed it "to the removal of the large portion of the central wall on the shop floor".

Monteith's Close (61).—Here lived James Kennedy (d. 1465), grandson of King Robert III., and counsellor to Kings James II. and James III. Bishop of Dunkeld and afterwards of St Andrews, he founded St Salvator's College, endowing it with the teinds of four parishes which till then had belonged to the bishopric.

Trunk Close (55).—"Trunk" may be a corruption of "Turing" (pronounced *Tierwin*, locally *Torn*), the Turings being baronets of Foveran in Aberdeenshire. The Close provides a notable specimen of Scottish domestic architecture.

A bill for repealing the statutes against Roman Catholics having been introduced in 1779, some rioters burned a house in Trunk Close supposed to be a chapel, but in reality the residence of the Popish Bishop.

Near the Close stands another stone well.

Moubray House (53).—Daniel Defoe (1661–1731), author of *Robinson Crusoe*, became editor of the *Edinburgh Courant* in 1710:—"Edinburgh,

printed by John Moncur, for the undertakers, and to be sold at Mr John Johnston's house, almost at the foot of Moubray's Close, at the Netherbow."

Moubray House, a tavern in the 18th century, boasted a room with panelled walls and decorated ceiling. It was once the bookshop of Archibald Constable, and here was born James Drummond, R.S.A. (1816–77), whose historic pictures are well known.

John Knox House (45).—The letters J. M. are the initials of James Mossman, Goldsmith to Mary Queen of Scots; M. A. those of Marriot Arres, his wife. The figure pointing to the sun emerging from clouds is apparently Moses.

Tradition has it that the picturesque edifice with projecting angle was occupied for some months by the Reformer John Knox. Galt calls it "the sanctified place where the Maccabeus of the Kirk of Scotland, John Knox, was wont to live". When Edinburgh Castle was garrisoned by Kirkcaldy of Grange, in the cause of Queen Mary, and when Kirkcaldy accused John Knox of slander, the Churchman quitted Edinburgh for St Andrews (May 1571). The death of the Regent Moray having accentuated his infirmity, he returned to Edinburgh on 23rd August 1572 to die. James Mossman was serving with Kirkcaldy, and it is possible that the magistrates may have placed Knox in the house vacated by the jeweller Mossman. On 9th November Knox preached in St Giles's at the ordination of a colleague, James

A View of the NETHERBOW PORT of EDINBURGH from the West.
This ancient Fabric was taken down 31st of August 71.

NETHERBOW PORT.

[See page 55.

Lawson. He never left his home again, dying on 24th November. "Have you hope? they asked Knox in his last moments. Unable to speak, he lifted his finger, pointed upwards, and so died. Honour to him! His works have not died. The letter of his work dies, as of all men's; but the spirit of it never" (Carlyle, *Heroes and Hero-Worship*).

Netherbow, one of the principal ports or gates of the City, "bow" meaning "arch". The original Netherbow suffered considerably during the Hertford invasion of 1544.

The second Netherbow with tower and spire was demolished in 1764. The clock and weather-vane are now at the Dean Orphan Hospital.

"The Netherbow Port might be called the Temple Bar of Edinburgh: intersecting the High Street at its termination, it divided Edinburgh, properly so called, from the suburb named the Canongate, as Temple Bar separates London from Westminster" (*Heart of Midlothian*).

Prince Charles Edward's followers met with no opposition while entering the Capital by the Netherbow. "Just as the Highlanders reached the gate," writes Chambers, "it was opened by the guard within, in order to let out the hackney coach which had brought back the deputies from Slateford, all the coaches of Edinburgh being at that time kept in the Canongate, to which place this was now returning. No sooner did the portal open than the Highlanders rushed in and took possession of the gate."

Moray-Knox Church.—This Church occupies the site of the Balmerino mansion.

From Lord John the Town Council acquired the superiority of the lands of Calton (or Caldtoun) in 1724. Lord Arthur, staunch Jacobite and last member of the family, was beheaded on Tower Hill in 1746.

Within the railings of the Church have been deposited a few of the stones from the Netherbow. "The heads of the preachers were frequently exposed on pikes between their two hands, the palms displayed as in the attitude of prayer." Here Lord Wariston's head was exposed with that of his friend, James Guthrie, minister of Stirling, commemorated by the inscription on the Martyrs' Monument at Greyfriars. The boy Guthrie figures in *The Lays of the Kirk and Covenant* by Mrs A. Stuart Menteath :—

Oh ! a strange, sad sight was the converse mute
Of the dead and the living there ;
And thoughts in that young child's soul took root,
Which manhood might scarcely bear !

But ever he meekly went his way,
As the stars came o'er the place—
And his mother wept, as she heard him say,
"I have seen my father's face ! "

HIGH STREET—South Side

Mercat Cross.—The structure, from which the Lyon King of Arms makes Royal Proclamations, was erected in 1885 by the Right Honourable William Ewart Gladstone (1809–98), who claimed "a purely Scottish descent", and who

MERCAT CROSS.

[*See pages* 56, 58.

was Member of Parliament for Midlothian from 1880 to 1895. The shaft is believed to have been the central feature of the original Cross. The first Cross, which stood near the east end of St Giles's, was moved farther east in 1617. From the Mercat Cross came the "awful summons" dissuading King James IV. not to war with England :—

> Then on its battlements they saw
> A vision, passing Nature's law,
> Strange, wild, and dimly seen ;
> Figures that seemed to rise and die,
> Gibber and sigh, advance and fly.
> *Marmion.*

[New Bank Close].—Down the Close stood, until 1820, the New Bank or Royal Bank, whose stock at the formation of the Company in 1727 exceeded that of the Bank of Scotland.

At the upper end of this Close stood the shop of Alexander Donaldson, bookseller, who figured in the House of Lords Copyright Case of 1774 ; he was succeeded here by his son, James Donaldson, founder of Donaldson's Hospital.

Upstairs (with a door from the New Bank Close) was the writing-school of William Swanson, "the great hand-spoiler of the time" : so he is described by Lord Cockburn, one of his pupils. Even in boyhood the budding judge interested himself in the shop of Creech hard by :—"I always tried to get a seat next a window, that I might see the men I heard so much talked of moving into and out of this bower of the muses, or loitering about its entrance."

Site of Mercat Cross.—Near the mouth of the Old Fishmarket Close are outlined in the street the paved foundations of the Mercat Cross erected in 1617. Scott carted to Abbotsford "the very fountain that in days of yore graced the Cross of Edinburgh, and flowed with claret at the coronation of the Stuarts". Scott lamented the barbarity of the "Auld Reekie bailies" in removing the Gothic Cross, to widen the thoroughfare:—

> Dun-Edin's Cross, a pillared stone,
> Rose on a turret octagon
> (But now is razed that monument,
> Whence royal edict rang,
> And voice of Scotland's law was sent
> In glorious trumpet-clang.
> Oh, be his tomb as lead to lead,
> Upon its dull destroyer's head!
> A minstrel's malison is said).

At the Mercat Cross of Edinburgh perished Kirkcaldy of Grange (1573), for the "keeping of the Castle against the King and his Regent"; Huntly (1649); Montrose (1650), "his booke and declaratione tayed in a rope aboute his necke"; James Guthrie (1661); Wariston (1663); the Argylls (1661 and 1685).

King James VI. appeared at the Cross on the twenty-first anniversary of his birth, anxious to reconcile his nobles by making the contentious parties walk through the City hand in hand; on that day he released all persons imprisoned for debt.

Writing of the crossing of Queen Anne from Denmark in 1589, an old chronicler says that

" the tempest of storme, bayth be sea and land, was sae vehement that many ships pereshit upoun the sea, sae that the passage for Queyne Anne was veri difficult to cum in Scotland ". Richie Graham, a wizard, tried for the raising of the storms, was convicted and burned at the Mercat Cross.

At the Restoration in 1660 the spouts of the Cross ran with claret.

Prince Charles Edward being established in Edinburgh in 1745, the followers proclaimed his father at the Cross. David Beatt, a Jacobite teacher, read the commission of regency, " with the declaration dated at Rome 1743, and a manifesto in the name of Charles, Prince Regent, dated at Paris 16th May 1745. Mrs Murray of Broughton, whose enthusiasm was surpassed only by her beauty, sat on horseback at the Cross, a drawn sword in her hand, her person profusely decorated with the white ribbons which signified devotion to the House of Stuart " (Chambers, *Rebellion in Scotland*). In 1746 Charles Edward's standard, captured at Culloden, was burned at the Cross by order of Cumberland.

Old Fishmarket Close (190).—At the lower end until the dawn of the 19th century was held the fishmarket described by Cockburn as " a steep, narrow, stinking ravine ". " The fish ", says he, " were generally thrown out in the street at the head of the Close, whence they were dragged down by dirty boys or dirtier women ; and then sold unwashed—for there was not a

drop of water in the place—from old, rickety, scaly, wooden tables, exposed to all the rain, dust and filth." Poultry was disposed of here later.

In the Close until a few years ago might have been seen the dwelling of the hangman or doomster. The last whose name is recorded, John High, died in 1817. The hangman was also called " the lad in the *piot* (*i.e.* magpie) coat ", his livery of black or dark gray being ornamented with silver lace.

George Heriot, founder of Heriot's Hospital, took up house in Fishmarket Close, while, according to tradition, Defoe worked in the Close, being secret agent for the English Government at the Union.

Borthwick's Close (186).—The Close took its name from the family of Lord Borthwick, the Barony dating back to 1452.

On 15th November 1824 a number of tenements between St Giles's and the Tron, with others in the north-eastern corner of the Parliament Close, went on fire; " before morning a range of houses six or seven stories high, with fifteen windows in front and extending back almost to Cowgate—as dense a mass of buildings as was perhaps in the world—was a burnt shell " (Cockburn). The only building in the High Street which escaped destruction—" Salamander Land "—contained the shop of James Donaldson, founder of Donaldson's Hospital; it was pulled down in 1847 for the extension of the Police Office.

Old Assembly Close (172).—In this Close, opposite which stands a well, resided Sir Alexander Gibson (Lord President Durie), who died in 1644. He was kidnapped by a suitor, Lord Traquair, who regarded him as unfavourable in a cause before the court, and who kept him for two or three months in a dark room in the Tower of Graham, Annandale (Scott, *Christie's Will*).

"The Assembly", a private association for dancing, was formed in 1710, the headquarters being a humble "land" in the West Bow. The next rooms, however, were in the Old Assembly Close, 1720–56. Oliver Goldsmith (1728–74), a medical student in Edinburgh, visited "The Assembly" in 1753, finding "one end of the room taken up by the ladies who sat dismally in a group by themselves. On the other end stand their pensive partners that are to be, but no more intercourse between the sexes than between two countries at war." Though the Scots were never congenial to Goldsmith's taste, yet he frankly recognised the beauty of the women and the good breeding of the men.

Covenant Close (162).—The National Covenant being approved at Greyfriars Church, one of the copies lay for signature in a house in Covenant Close (1638).

In the Close resided for a time Robert Macqueen, Lord Braxfield (1722–99), "Weir of Hermiston". "God was love; the name of my lord (to all who knew him) was fear" (R. L. Stevenson). "The giant of the Bench was

Braxfield," writes Cockburn; "his very name makes people start yet. Strong built and dark, with rough eyebrows, powerful eyes, threatening lips, and a low growling voice, he was like a formidable blacksmith. His language, like his thoughts, was short, strong, and conclusive."

"Betimes in the morning, having taken our breakfast, we got a caddie to guide us and our wallise to Widow McVicar's, at the head of the Covenanters' Close. Mrs McVicar kept a cloth shop, and sold plaidings and flannels, besides Yorkshire superfines, and was use to the sudden incoming of strangers, especially visitants from both the West and North Highlands" (Galt, *Annals of the Parish*).

When "Chrystal Croftangry" was, like other young lairds, "sweeping the boards of the Parliament House with the skirts of his gown", he used occasionally to "eat oysters in the Covenant Close" (*Chronicles of the Canongate*).

Nanty Ewart's father sent him at "nineteen to study divinity at the head of the highest stair in the Covenant Close" (*Redgauntlet*).

Burnet's Close (156).—Here lived Samuel Burnet, a brewer, and here stood the town house of Lord Auchinleck, Scots judge (1706–82), father of James Boswell, the biographer of Johnson. At Auchinleck (pronounced Affleck) Johnson "came in collision" with the judge, who used afterwards to speak of him as "Ursa Major".

In the middle of the street was the **[Guardhouse]**, the headquarters of the City Guard, "a

long, low, ugly building (removed in 1787), which to a fanciful imagination might have suggested the idea of a long black snail crawling up the middle of the High Street, and deforming its beautiful esplanade" (*Heart of Midlothian*). In front of the building was placed "the wooden mare", on which a veteran might have been seen mounted, "a firelock tied to each foot, atoning for some small offence".

Clam Shell House (150).—Here Mary Stuart seems to have taken shelter on her return from Dunbar with Darnley—Riccio had been murdered but recently at Holyrood.

Bell's Wynd (146).—The third Edinburgh Assembly Rooms were opened in this Wynd in 1756. Hugo Arnot states that "the profits were given for the support of the Charity Workhouse. Minuets were danced by each set, previous to the country dances. Strict regularity with respect to dress and decorum, and great dignity of manners were observed," says Alan Fairford in *Redgauntlet*. "They begin to talk of a new Assembly Room." "A new Assembly Room," exclaimed the old Jacobite laird. "Umph,—I mind quartering three hundred men in the Old Assembly Room."

The fourth Edinburgh Assembly Rooms—the present handsome apartments in George Street—were opened in 1787; there at the Theatrical Fund Dinner on 23rd February 1827 Lord Meadowbank divulged, with Scott's consent, the

identity of the Great Unknown, Sir Walter corroborating with the remark that he was the "total and undivided author" of the Waverley Novels.

Stevenlaw's Close (132).—This name is taken from Steven Law, a supporter of Queen Mary during the Civil War of 1571.

In the Close was the Roman Catholic Chapel in which Prince Charles Edward worshipped frequently.

The City Directory of 1784 has a curious entry, "Mrs Fraser, pastry mistress, Stevenlaw's Close".

In 1786–87 Burns used to call on Allan Masterton in Stevenlaw's Close. Masterton was later the High School writing-master, the Allan of the song—

> O Willie brewed a peck o' maut,
> And Rob and Allan cam' to pree.

The air is Masterton's, the song Burns's. William Nicol, another High School master, had Burns and Masterton as guests at Moffat one autumn; the trio had so joyous a time that they agreed thus "to celebrate the business". Burns spoke of Masterton as "one of the worthiest men in the world, and a man of real genius".

[Kennedy's Close].—Here died George Buchanan (1506–82), who resigned the Principalship of St Andrews University in order to tutor Prince James (afterwards King James VI.), then in his

PLATE XXVI.

MORTON'S RESIDENCE.

[*See page* 70.

fourth year, and who, Johnson considers, "has as fair a claim to immortality as can be conferred by modern Latinity". Buchanan maintained that the Casket Letters were in Queen Mary's handwriting.

The "Crown" in Kennedy's Close was one of the haunts of the Knights of the Cape Club. The members included Alexander Runciman (painter); David Herd (literary adviser to Constable); also Henry Raeburn (*Sir Discovery*) and Robert Fergusson (*Sir Precentor*).

In this Close stood the premises of John Ruskin's grandfather, calico merchant.

Tron Kirk.—In front of the Church stood the "tron", a public beam for weighing goods.

The Tron Kirk, an example of "Laudian Gothic", was founded in 1637 by order of King Charles I. to house a congregation displaced from St Giles's, when the royal charter of 29th September 1633 made the great church serve as the cathedral. A notable feature of the Tron interior is the oaken roof. The church plate is of great beauty, two of the communion cups being inscribed 1633.

A seventeenth-century cleric, William Erskine, exclaimed during the course of prayer:—"Lord, have mercy on all fools and idiots, particularly on the magistrates of Edinburgh!"

Among the seat-holders in the eighteenth century were Lord Provost Drummond and Professor Adam Ferguson, together with judges such as Elchies, Nisbet, Methven, Tinwald,

Gardenstone, Braxfield, Hailes, Monboddo, Strichen.

Dr Thomas Chalmers was Moderator of the General Assembly which met in the Tron Kirk in 1832.

The day after the great fire of 15th November 1824 " an alarm was given that the Tron Church was on fire. We ran out from the Court, gowned and wigged," writes Cockburn, " and saw that it was the steeple, an old Dutch thing, composed of wood, iron, and lead, and edged all the way up with bits of ornament. When it was all over, and we were beginning to move back to our clients, Scott, whose father's pew had been in the Tron Church, lingered a moment, and said, with a profound heave, 'Eh, sirs! mony a weary, weary sermon hae I heard beneath that steeple ' ! "

When Colonel Mannering reached the High Street, it was " clanging with the voices of oyster-women and the bells of pye-men ; for it had, as his guide assured him, just ' chappit eight upon the Tron ' ".

Edinburgh was a disorderly town in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. " George of Seyton ", says Norton to Murray in *The Abbot*, " was crossing the causeway this morning with a score of men at his back, and had a ruffle with my friends of the house of Leslie ; they met at the Tron, and were fighting hard, when the provost with his guard of partizans came in thirdsman, and staved them asunder with their halberds, as men part dog and bear."

South Bridge.—Sir William Forbes of Pitsligo (1739–1806), the banker whom Pitt was wont to consult, shares with his partner Lord Provost Sir James Hunter Blair (1741–87) the credit of building the South Bridge, the arches opening up communication with the southern suburbs. The Bridge was finished in 1788. As a boy of eight, Henry Cockburn was conducted to the High School daily by his tutor. "The only thing that relieved my alarm as he hauled me along", says Cockburn, "was the diversion of crossing on planks the arches of the South Bridge which were then unfinished."

At the point where the High Street and the Bridges intersect was buried (at his own request) Walter Merlion, a French mason, who in the time of King James V. paved the chief street of the City.

Niddry Street.—Francis Earl of Bothwell (d. 1624) persecuted King James VI. and his Queen, and here in 1591 Provost Nicoll Edward gave shelter to the Royal couple. Bothwell had consulted two witches about the King's end, James VI. regarding the Earl with dread ever after.

St Cecilia's Hall, once the home of classical concert, was built in 1762 by Robert Mylne after the model of the Opera House at Parma; the same Mylne was architect of the Blackfriars Bridge over the Thames. It was said of Mylne that his private houses never smoked!

Henry Mackenzie's *Anecdotes and Egotisms*

cannot be quoted too often. "Some of the houses had a double entry from Niddry's and Merlin's Wynd. I remember a mistake of a lady's chair man carrying her, first to a wrong door in the one wynd, when she was ushered into a drawing room, where, when she discovered her mistake, she made her apology and returned to her chair, the bearers of which were directed to the house she wished to go to, of which the proper door was in the other wynd. She was carried thither accordingly, but unluckily to the other entry of the very house she had left, and on being admitted was ushered into the self-same drawing room."

Wedding the words to a melody popular at the time, Andrew Young (1807–89), Headmaster of Dr Bell's School in Niddry Street, wrote the hymn *There is a Happy Land* (1838).

Dickson's Close (80).—Here resided David Allan, R.S.A. (1744–96), who illustrated Ramsay and Burns.

Cant's Close (70).—This Close is named from the family of Cant, owners of Priestfield and the Grange of St Giles. The properties adjoining the Close once belonged to the Church of Crichton in Midlothian.

"There is such bandying of private feuds and public factions that a man of any note shall not cross your High Street twice without endangering his life thrice" (*Fortunes of Nigel*). Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch was murdered in 1552 by the

Kerrs of Cessford, a family with which the old feud continued.

> When the streets of high Dunedin
> Saw lances gleam, and falchions redden,
> And heard the slogan's deadly yell—
> Then the chief of Branksome fell.
> *Lay of the Last Minstrel.*

Strichen's Close (66).—The Close derives its name from a Judge of Session, Alexander Fraser, Lord Strichen (d. 1775), who occupied the former lodging of the Abbot of Melrose. He married Anne, daughter of 1st Duke of Argyll. From Lord Strichen and his wife is descended the present Lord Lovat.

Here resided Walter Chepman (d. 1538), the first printer in Scotland. He served the City as Dean of Guild. He was buried in the aisle built by himself on the south side of St Giles's Cathedral.

This Close contained the mansion of Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, "Bloody" Mackenzie, the King's Advocate who prosecuted the Covenanters.

Blackfriars Street.—The Monastery of the Black Friars, founded in 1230 by King Alexander II., stood in the Cowgate.

The Wynd of this name was the scene of the brawl—"Cleanse the Causeway" (1520)—between the adherents of the Earl of Arran (d. 1529), whose grandfather was King James II., and those of the Earl of Angus (d. 1557), whose wife,

Margaret, was widow of King James IV. The parties, " each headed by a person of importance, chanced to meet in the very centre of the street, or, as it was called, in ' the crown of the causeway ' —a post of honour as tenaciously asserted in Scotland as that of giving or taking the wall used to be in the more southern part of the island. The two leaders being of equal rank, and most probably, either animated by political dislike or by recollection of some feudal enmity, marched close up to each other, without yielding an inch to the right or the left ; and neither showing the least purpose of giving way, they stopped for an instant, and then drew their swords. Their followers imitated their example " (*The Abbot*).

The mansion at the lower end of Blackfriars Street (east side) was occupied by James Beaton (d. 1539), Archbishop of Glasgow and of St Andrews, and by his more celebrated nephew, Cardinal David Beaton (1494–1546).

Walter Chepman and Andrew Myllar set up a printing press in the Cowgate near the Beaton mansion, from which in 1508 they issued the first book printed in Scotland.

After the interview with Darnley at the Kirk o' Field on 9th February 1567, Queen Mary passed along Blackfriars Wynd on the way to Holyroodhouse, while the conspirators carrying gunpowder made their way down Todrick's Wynd, an alley farther east.

Blackfriars Street's only remaining antiquity is the residence, with a coat of arms over the entrance, of James 4th Earl of Morton, who,

having been implicated in Darnley's murder, perished by the Maiden in 1581. This beheading machine was used in Scotland from 1565 down to 1710. "Earl Morton hath brought you down a Maiden from Halifax, you never saw the like of her," says Michael Wing-the-Wind in *The Abbot*, "and she'll clasp you round the neck, and your head will remain in her arms."

During his visit to Edinburgh in 1773, Johnson worshipped in the chapel founded by Lord Chief Baron Smith for the service of the Church of England, the Rev. George Carr (1704–76) preaching from the words:—"The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice." Boswell was "sorry to think Mr Johnson did not attend to the sermon, Mr Carr's low voice not being strong enough to reach his hearing".

South Gray's Close (40).—The tablet on the High Street frontage records the birth of the 11th Earl of Buchan's sons—the Hon. Henry Erskine (1746–1817), orator, wit, Dean of Faculty and Lord Advocate, and the Hon. Thomas Erskine (1750–1823), afterwards Lord Chancellor of Great Britain and Baron Erskine of Restormel.

Here the mansion of Lord Elphinstone stood until 1927, and opposite it, until sixty years ago, the Scottish Mint. There was a certain Lady Elphinstone who reached the age of 103, and who, a keen Whig, did not relish Grahame of Claverhouse. The great soldier is said to have visited her in order to hear her describe some spectacles of which she had been a witness.

"Indeed," said she, "I think one of the most remarkable is, that when I entered the world there was one Knox deaving us a' with his clavers, and now that I am going out of it, there is one Clavers deaving us with his knocks." The Elphinstone mansion passed to Peter Wedderburn of Chesterhall, elevated to the bench as Lord Chesterhall, and in the house was born his eldest son, Alexander Wedderburn (1733–1805), who rose to be Lord Chancellor Loughborough, 1st Earl of Rosslyn.

What is now St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church was opened in 1774 as a place of worship for Episcopalians. The ceiling over the altar was painted by Alexander Runciman. One of the clergy was Archibald Alison (1757–1839), whose wife was the sister of Dr James Gregory; who wrote essays on *Taste*; and whose only defect, thought Cockburn, was "the odd one of too much politeness". Maria Edgeworth went to hear Alison:—"His fine voice but little altered. To me he appears the best preacher I have ever heard." "No man ever wrote a better sermon," said Dugald Stewart of Alison, "no man ever spoke a better sermon, no man ever thought a better sermon."

Hyndford's Close (34).—The name is taken from the family of Hyndford, the title becoming extinct in 1817. John Carmichael, 3rd Earl (1701–67), was envoy to three European Courts.

On the west side of the Close lived the mother of Lady Anne Barnard (1750–1825), who wrote

Auld Robin Gray, taking the name of the ballad from the old herd at Balcarres. In *The Pirate* Scott compared the condition of Minna Troil, "Queen of the Swords", with that of Jeanie Gray, the village heroine in Lady Anne Barnard's ballad.

In the same house was born Jean Maxwell, daughter of Sir William Maxwell of Monreith, and wife of Alexander, 4th Duke of Gordon (1743–1827). Her beauty may be judged from the portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds. She was the sole arbitress of fashion in Edinburgh. Three of her daughters married Dukes (Richmond, Manchester, Bedford), the fourth a Marquis (Cornwallis), the fifth a Baronet. She entertained Burns with other literati during the winter of 1786–87. Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe says of her:—"I never saw a vulgar duchess except the Duchess of Gordon," Scott's opinion being that her "sole claim to wit rested upon her brazen impudence and disregard to the feelings of all who were near her". For some years the Duchess was estranged from her husband, leading a wandering life, and dying in poor circumstances in a Piccadilly hotel on 11th April 1812.

A house, once the property of the Earls of Selkirk, was occupied later by Dr Daniel Rutherford (1749–1819), physician and botanist, half-brother of Scott's mother.

North of this stood Lodge St David where Scott was made a Freemason in 1801.

Fountain Close (22).—The fountain or public well on the other side of the High Street used to

stand at the mouth of this Close, hence the name. The Town Council permitted the Incorporated Trades of Calton to lay a pipe for conveying water from the fountain well.

In this Close Thomas Bassendyne (d. 1577) printed the earliest translation of the New Testament published in Scotland, having already brought out an edition of the works of Sir David Lindsay.

Here Messrs Oliver & Boyd, a firm founded in 1778, occupied towards the end of the eighteenth century a portion of the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians.

Tweeddale Court (14).—The spelling of the name in old Directories is Tweddle or Twedles. The mansion with its gates of wrought iron was built by Dame Margaret Kerr, daughter of 1st Earl of Lothian, wife of 7th Lord Hay of Yester, and founder of Lady Yester's Church. The shelter for sedan chairs remains. The gardens, famed for their lime trees, extended down to a pillared entrance gate in the Cowgate.

The Tweeddale mansion became the Head Office of the British Linen Bank. One dark evening in 1806 a porter, William Begbie, was carrying a parcel of bank notes from the Leith Branch, when a scoundrel stabbed him to the heart in Tweeddale Court, and carried off £4392. The murderer was never discovered. At the Theatrical Club Dinner in the George Street Assembly Rooms in 1827, Lord Meadowbank revealed the parentage of the Waverley Novels.

COULL'S CLOSE.

[*See page 76.*

" Shortly after resuming his chair ", says Lockhart, " Sir Walter (I am told) sent a slip of paper to Mr (Patrick) Robertson, begging him to confess something too,—why not the murder of Begbie?"

The British Linen Bank were succeeded in 1817 by Messrs Oliver & Boyd, publishers.

World's End Close (10).—Here stood the residence of Sir James Stanfield, of Newmills, East Lothian, whose murder in 1687 was a mystery connected with the politics of the time of King James VII. The belief that the body of the person murdered bleeds at the touch of the murderer was urged as evidence of guilt at the trial of the son, Philip Stanfield.

> Young Stanfield touch'd his father's corpse,
> When rose a fearful wail;
> For blood gush'd from the winding-sheet,
> And every face grew pale.
>
> JAMES MILLER.

Says Scott:—" I see nothing inconsistent with the old gentleman's having committed suicide. The ordeal of touching the corpse was observed in Germany. They call it *barrecht*."

In the World's End Close was born William Falconer (1732–69), an adventurous spirit, whose poem, *The Shipwreck*, was founded upon his own experiences as a sailor.

CANONGATE—NORTH SIDE

The word Canongate has no connection with " gate ". " Canongate " = canon—gait, the

latter meaning "way". Compare Bishopsgate, Gallowgate, Highgate. The canons who walked along this "way" towards Edinburgh were the monks of Holyrood Abbey—Canons Regular of the Order of St Augustine. The Canongate was put under the jurisdiction of Holyrood Abbey by King David I. in 1128, the City of Edinburgh acquiring the superiority of the Burgh in 1636, incorporating it in the year 1856.

In 1769 the Canongate boasted among its residents two Dukes, sixteen Earls, seven Barons, seven Judges, thirteen Baronets. "When royalty went to London, nobility followed" (Alexander Smith). "The removal of the residence of the Sovereign has had the effect of rendering the great nobility of Scotland very indifferent about the capital" (*Peter's Letters*).

Cranston Street.—This Street, formerly Leith Wynd, was the chief route by which travellers landing at Leith approached Edinburgh.

The Rev. Joseph Robertson, of Leith Wynd Chapel of Ease, married the poet Shelley to Harriet Westbrook in August 1811. Neither was of the right age in England, so that the couple hied northward to Edinburgh. Shelley, "farmer, Sussex", occupied furnished rooms at William Cumming's, 60 George Street. The Rev. Joseph Robertson, whose private address was 225 Canongate, was banished from Scotland for conducting marriages illegally.

[Coull's Close.]—At the lower end was "Paul's

Work", where the Ballantyne Press produced the Waverley Novels. (In 1822 were published 145,000 volumes.) Scott, who knew James Ballantyne as a boy at Kelso, spoke of him on his removal to Edinburgh in 1802 "as a great critic as well as an excellent printer", and he spoke also of the two brothers "as my old friends and schoolfellows, the Ballantynes of Edinburgh". "Ballantyne continues to flourish like a green bay tree, but instead of being planted by a river, he has established at the bottom of Leith Wynd a hall equal to that which the Genii of the lamp built for Aladdin in point of size, but rather less superbly furnished, being occupied by about a dozen of presses."

Coull's has been traditionally the scene of what Scott describes in *Rokeby*—the lodging to which the blindfolded divine was carried by sedan chair, in which he was compelled to pray as if the lady were dying, and from which he was hurrying when he heard the report of a pistol.

Rae's Close (281).—The builder, Rae, was a royal barber and surgeon; only a fragment of the old building remains.

Morocco Close (273).—On the front of Morocco Land is displayed the figure of a Moor with turban and necklace. Tradition, perhaps unfounded, asserts that a student, Andrew Gray, had been arrested as ringleader of a disturbance at the home of an unpopular Provost. Gray escaped from the Edinburgh Tolbooth, went

to sea, and rose to high rank in the household of the Emperor of Morocco. Many years afterwards (1645) a Moorish vessel lay at anchor in Leith Roads. The commander, Andrew Gray, inquiring for the Provost of his college days, learned that the daughter suffered from plague, and volunteered to cure her. The cure proving satisfactory, he married his patient, setting up house in what has since been called Morocco Land.

Seaton's Close (267A).—The period to which this residence belongs is the 18th century, and Seaton is said to have served as surgeon with General Wade.

Kinloch's Close (265A).—Perhaps named after Kinloch of Gilmerton, Lord Provost in 1677. Sir Daniel Wilson names one Henry Kinloch, who entertained the ambassadors come from France to invest Darnley with the Order of St Michael.

New Street.—Here stands the house of Henry Home, Lord Kames (1696–1782), judge, philosopher, agriculturist. Speaking of Kames's essay on the *Elements of Criticism*, Goldsmith said that it was a book easier to write than to read. Kames was the judge who tried a certain Matthew Hay for murder at Ayr in 1780—they used to play at chess together. A verdict of guilty being returned, the judge exclaimed,—"That's checkmate for you, Matthew." Johnson had a poor

PLATE XXVIII.

SHOEMAKERS' LAND.

[*See page* 80.

opinion of Kames, and Scott describes him as " an acute, metaphysical judge, though somewhat coarse in his manners ".

In New Street stood the town house of Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes (1726–92), jurist and historian. An earnest Christian, he declined to revise for Hume his *Inquiry into the Human Mind*, and was one of those who censured the sceptic, then Keeper of the Advocates' Library, for purchasing certain objectionable French works. Boswell is said to have acquired from Hailes the desire to meet Johnson. Hailes's *magnum opus* is *The Annals of Scotland*. At Lord Hailes's Johnson and Boswell " spent a most agreeable day ".

Little Jack's Close (233).—Jack seems to have been a slater.

Here Susanna, Allan Ramsay's Countess of Eglintoun, entertained Prince Charles Edward and his suite in 1745, and here she resided in old age, her favourite pastime being the taming of rats.

Here for about nine years David Hume had his second Edinburgh home, in which he wrote the greater portion of his *History of England*. He gave suppers to his friends, assembling " whosoever were most knowing and agreeable among either the laity or the clergy ". " For innocent mirth and agreeable raillery ", says Alexander Carlyle, " I never knew his match."

Jack's Land lies between the " Jack " Closes. Behind Jack's Land stood the mansion of General Thomas Dalyell, of Binns. As an officer in the Russian Army against the Poles and the Turks,

he had recourse to stern methods. Being appointed by King Charles II. Commander-in-Chief in Scotland, Dalyell defeated the Covenanters at Rullion Green (1666). "A man more feared and hated by the Whigs than even Claverhouse himself," he raised a regiment known to this day as the Scots Greys. He is remembered as having worn a breastplate, "over which descended a gray beard of venerable length, which he cherished as a mark of mourning for Charles the First, having never shaved since that monarch was brought to the scaffold" (*Old Mortality*).

Shoemakers' Land (215).—Over the door of Cordiners' Land a tablet bears the arms of the Craft, the date 1677, the crown of the patron St Crispin, together with a rounding knife. An open book reveals the first verse of Psalm 133.

Cordiners' Land is named after "Cordiner" or "Cordwainer", a worker in Cordova leather. Of the fourteen incorporated trades of Edinburgh, the shoemakers ranked next in wealth to the goldsmiths.

The Edinburgh Directory (1773 to 1786) names as an inhabitant of the Close Robert Oliphant of Rossie, Postmaster-General for Scotland.

Tolbooth Wynd (165).—The building over the entrance is noteworthy.

Claverhouse usually occupied quarters in this vicinity.

Taylor, the Water-Poet, describing the Canon-

gate, speaks of " the buildings on each side of the way being all of squared stone, five, six, and seven stories high, and many by-lanes and closes on each side of the way, wherein are gentlemen's houses, much fairer then the buildings in the high street, for in the high street marchants and tradesmen do dwell, but the gentlemen's mansions and goodliest houses are obscurely founded in the aforesaid lanes ; the walles are eight or tenne foote thicke, exceeding strong, not built for a day, a weeke, or a moneth, or a yeere ".

Canongate Tolbooth (163).—Built in 1591 in the Scoto-French style of architecture, the Tolbooth was the structure in which public dues or tolls were collected. The Council Chamber for many years, it was converted into a prison, but was discontinued in the beginning of 1848. Between 1661 and 1688 the cells were occupied by various Covenanters.

The inscriptions in Latin read :—" The place of the seal of the Burgh. For one's country and one's successors, 1591."—" King James VI. Justice and Piety are the strong bulwarks of a prince." The coat-of-arms of the Burgh bears a stag's head with a cross between the tynes, the Abbey of Holyrood owing its origin to a legendary incident connected with King David I. and an infuriated stag, from which he was protected by a cross from heaven. " Sic itur ad astra. ' This is the path to heaven.' Such ", writes Scott in *Chronicles of the Canongate*, " is the ancient motto attached to the armorial bearings of the Canon-

gate, which is inscribed, with greater or less propriety, upon all the public buildings, from the church to the pillory, in the ancient quarter of Edinburgh which bears, or rather once bore, the same relation to the Good Town that Westminster does to London, being still possessed of the palace of the sovereign, as it formerly was dignified by the residence of the principal nobility and gentry."

Canongate Church.—The nave of Holyrood Abbey Church was used as the parish church of the Canongate from the period of the Reformation. The Order of the Thistle, which was instituted by King James V. about 1540, was renewed by King James VII. in 1687. The latter claimed the old conventual church "for his chapel royal and had it fitted up accordingly in a style of splendour which grievously outraged the feelings of his presbyterian subjects". The present Canongate Church was founded in 1691 for the outed congregation, a bequest in 1649 by Thomas Moodie of Dalry providing the funds.

Until the present Church was opened, the parishioners worshipped at Holyrood, the old register having the customary quaint entries. For instance, in 1565 on 9th March, "Monsr Sengnior David ves slane in Holyrodhuse", and on 29th July "Henry and Marie Kyng and Qwene of Scottis were married", while the entry of 10th February 1566 runs—"the Kyngs grace blawen up with buder in the Kirk of Field".

The private soldiers who were taken prisoners

CANONGATE TOLBOOTH.

[*See page* 81.

by Charles Edward Stuart at Prestonpans were confined " in the Jail and Church of Canongate ". The *Caledonian Mercury* described the Prince at that time as a man " who could eat a dry crust, sleep on peas straw, take his dinner in four minutes, and win a battle in five ".

Among the eminent ministers of the Canongate Church was John Lee, D.D. (1779–1859), afterwards Principal of Edinburgh University, the " Archdeacon Meadow " of *The Book Hunter*. Before being examined by a Committee of the House of Commons, Lee " suddenly disappeared with all his money in his pocket, and returned penniless, followed by a waggon containing 372 copies of rare editions of the Bible ".

SOME OF THE TOMBS OF THE CHURCHYARD

1. George Drummond (1687–1766); one of the Commissioners of Excise; six times Lord Provost of Edinburgh.
2. Adam Smith, LL.D. (1723–90); author of *The Wealth of Nations*.
3. Professor James Gregory, M.D. (1753–1821); compounder of Gregory's Mixture.
4. Robert Keith (1681–1757); Bishop of Fife, historian.
5. George Chalmers (1773–1836); plumber, founder of Chalmers' Hospital.
6. Alexander Runciman (1736–85); historical painter. Monument erected by the Royal Scottish Academy to commemorate him and his brother John who died at Naples.
7. Robert Fergusson (1750–74); poet. The date of birth should be 5th Sept. 1750, not 1751; that of death was 16th Oct. 1774. " By special grant of the Managers to Robert Burns, who erected this

stone, this burial-place is to remain for ever sacred to the memory of Robert Fergusson."

8. Alexander Brunton, D.D. (1772–1854); Professor of Oriental Languages. His wife wrote "Self-Control" and "Discipline".
9. James Ramsay (1624–96); Bishop of Dunblane and Ross.
10. Dugald Stewart (1753–1828); Professor of Moral Philosophy.
11. John Frederick Lampe (1703–51); Handel's bassoon player: conducted orchestra in Canongate Theatre.
12. Lord Provost Sir William Fettes, Bart. (1750–1836); founder of Fettes College.
13. John Ballantyne (1774–1821); printer. Scott whispered to Lockhart at the graveside on Ballantyne's funeral day:—"I feel as if there would be less sunshine for me from this day forth."
14. James Ballantyne (1772–1833); printer; buried "close in front of Fettes's tomb-gate".
15. Hugh W. Williams (1773–1829); "Grecian Williams," landscape painter.
16. Sir John Watson Gordon, R.A. (1788–1864); portrait painter.
17. Horatius Bonar, D.D. (1808–89); hymn writer.
18. "Clarinda"—Mrs Maclehose (1759–1841), who corresponded with Burns ("Sylvander"). The letters formed, in Scott's opinion, "the most extraordinary mixture of sense and nonsense, and of love human and divine, that was ever exposed to the eye of the world". She died at 14 Calton Place, and lies in the tomb of her relative, the Scots judge, Lord Craig.
19. Robert Forsyth (1766–1846); author of *The Beauties of Scotland.*
20. John Irving, W.S. (1770–1850); "in boyhood the chosen friend of Walter Scott".

21. Luke Fraser (1736–1821); Scott, who was a pupil of his in the High School, calls him "a good Latin scholar and a very worthy man".
22. Riccio's mutilated body had been interred under the Chapel passage at Holyrood, but the remains of the Secretary were exhumed and reburied, says tradition, under the carved stone at the south-east corner of the Canongate Church.

Dunbar's Close (137).—Mrs Love had a celebrated oyster cellar, "below Canongate Church". When Burns was in Edinburgh, ladies of fashion wearing masks frequented Mrs Love's, "eating oysters and drinking punch and porter". Her son, Kenneth Love, tailor and clothier to the members of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2, figures in Stuart Watson's "Meeting of the Members". "Most of those oyster cellars have a sort of long room, where a small party may enjoy the exercise of a country dance, to the music of a fiddle, harp, or bag-pipe" (Arnot, *History of Edinburgh*).

Panmure Close (129).—Here resided Maule of Panmure, Forfarshire. James, 4th Earl, remained faithful to King James VII. after the latter's flight to France, and at the Convention of the Estates opposed the recognition of William and Mary. He proclaimed the Old Chevalier King at the Cross of Brechin in 1715, entertaining him at Brechin Castle the year following. In June 1746 Panmure was attainted, and the estates confiscated.

The father of political economy, Adam Smith, occupied Panmure House for the twelve years

previous to his death. He owed his appointment in 1777 as one of the Commissioners of Customs to the suggestions which he made about taxes in *The Wealth of Nations*, published the previous year. The work argues that every man promotes the interests of his fellows by attending to his own. The publication was first mentioned in the Commons by Fox. Adam Smith once met Pitt, Addington, and Grenville at Henry Dundas's at dinner. When the great Scotsman entered, the company rose. "Be seated, gentlemen," humbly said he. Pitt requested Smith to be seated first, "for we are all your scholars". One Sunday evening the economist was entertaining some friends to supper at Panmure House. Looking ill, he was advised to retire early. Pausing with his hand on the door, he addressed the guests:—"I fear I shall never meet you again, but I trust we shall meet in another, a better world." Next Saturday he was dead.

Brown's Court (125).—The dwelling with forestair is very quaint. Standing in the opening on the right, one admires the light and shade of the steps opposite.

Little Lochend Close (115). — Here Mrs Hannah Robertson, reputed grand-daughter of King Charles II., entertained persons of Jacobite sympathies.

Reid's Court (95).—Observe the massive block of houses in the Close farther east.

BROWN'S COURT.

[*See page* 86.

Campbell's Close (87).—Spiral stair.

In Campbell's Land have resided an Archbishop of St Andrews and one or more Earls of Morton.

From these flats is seen the Calton Cemetery, where, near the east wall, rest the ashes of the grandfather, uncle, and parents of Robert Louis Stevenson.

> There, on the sunny frontage of a hill,
> Hard by the house of kings, repose the dead,
> My dead, the ready and the strong of word.

Allan Ramsay wrote an elegy on "Luckie" Wood, the much respected keeper of an alehouse in this part of the Canongate. On the departure of the Scots Members of Parliament to London after the Union, her house fell on evil days.

> O Canigate! puir elritch hole,
> What loss, what crosses does thou thole!
> London an' death gars thee look droll,
> An' hing thy heid!

Golfer's Land (81).—Two members of an English Golf Club, attached to the suite of the Duke of York (afterwards King James VII.), were challenged by the Duke to a match on Leith Links, his partner being a shoemaker, John Patersone. The match was duly played, His Royal Highness and Patersone being the winners. The stakes enabled Patersone to build Golfer's Land.

Note the armorial, as well as the tablet on which the incident is described in Latin by Dr

Archibald Pitcairne (1652–1713). The anagram for "John Patersone" is appended:—"I hate no person."

Callender's Entry (67).—The Callenders were blacksmiths under Royal patronage.

Janet Hall's alehouse in this Entry was noted for its claret. John Gay (1685–1732), poet, dramatist, author of *The Beggar's Opera*, came to Edinburgh with his patrons, the 3rd Duke of Queensberry and the Duchess. The poet told Swift he accompanied his great friends wheresoever they would carry him. Gay frequented "Janet Hall's" with Allan Ramsay and other wits. "Tradition in Edinburgh used to point out an attic in an old house opposite to Queensberry House, where, as an appropriate abode for a poet, his patrons are said to have stowed him" (Chambers).

Whiteford House (53).—The Scottish Naval and Military Veterans' Residence occupies the site of "My Lord Seyton's Lodging", to which Roland Graeme pursued Catherine Seyton after one of the street skirmishes then common in Edinburgh. "The page entered with the same precipitation which had marked his whole proceeding and found himself in a large gloomy hall or vestibule, dimly enlightened by lattice casements of painted glass, and rendered yet dimmer through the exclusion of the sunbeams, owing to the height of the walls of those buildings by which the courtyard was enclosed. The walls of the

JANET HALL'S ALEHOUSE.

[*See page* 88.

hall were surrounded with suits of ancient and rusted armour, interchanged with huge and massive stone scutcheons, bearing double tressures, fleured and counter fleured wheat sheaves, coronets, and so forth—things to which Roland Graeme gave not a moment's attention" (*The Abbot*).

George, 5th Lord Seton (1530–85), Provost of Edinburgh, acted as host to Queen Mary and Darnley at Seton during their honeymoon. After the murder of Riccio, Seton accompanied the Royal couple first to Seton, thence to Dunbar; it was to Seton the Queen repaired after Darnley's assassination. Robert, 6th Lord Seton, a favourite with King James VI., was created Earl of Winton. Dying in 1603, he was buried the very day the King left Edinburgh for London. "As James was trooping towards England, bag and baggage, his journey was stopped near Cockenzie by meeting the funeral of the Earl of Winton, the old and faithful servant and follower of his ill-fated mother, poor Mary" (*Chronicles of the Canongate*).

George, 5th Earl of Winton (d. 1749), whom Mackay describes in *Secret Memoirs* as "a young gentleman who hath been much abroad in the world", was made prisoner at the battle of Preston; alone of the earls tried for treason during the Rising of 1715, he refused to plead guilty. Sentenced to death, he made his escape from the Tower, went to France, and died in Rome.

Whiteford House (pronounced Whitefoord)

seems to have derived its name from Sir John Whitefoord, Bart. (d. 1803), who purchased the property on leaving Ballochmyle, Ayrshire. He is believed to have been "Sir Arthur Wardour" of *The Antiquary*—a country gentleman who "hunted and fished, gave and received dinners, attended races and country meetings, was a deputy-lieutenant and trustee upon turnpike acts". It was to Whitefoord that Burns sent his *Lament on Lord Glencairn*.

Whitehorse Close (31).—Anxious to make peace with the Covenanters, King Charles I. proclaimed in 1639 that the religion of Scotland would be safe in his hands. When money was beginning to run short, and the King was at Berwick, he realised that his army would soon break up, and sent to Edinburgh for the Lords of the Covenanting party. They met in the Whitehorse Close, mounted their horses to ride to the King, all being checked by the mob except Montrose, now a Royalist.

The Bishops of Edinburgh from 1633 to 1690 were William Forbes, David Lindsay, George Wishart, Alexander Young, John Paterson, and Alexander Rose. The house in Whitehorse Close, with the turnpike stair, was occupied by John Paterson (1632–1708) and Alexander Rose (1647–1720). Paterson, who rose to be Archbishop of Glasgow, owed his promotion to the Duchess of Lauderdale.

Rose, in company with "Bloody" Mackenzie, travelled to Whitehall in 1689 to be received in

WHITEHORSE CLOSE.

[*See page* 90.

audience by King William III. The King, understanding that the bulk of the aristocracy in Scotland were in favour of episcopacy, expressed the hope that Bishop Rose would follow the example of England. The prelate answered :— " Sir, I will serve you so far as law, reason, or conscience will allow me."

Whitehorse Close contained " the inn or hostelry of St Michael, which stood ", says *The Abbot*, " in a large courtyard off the main street, close under the descent of the Calton Hill ". Thither Roland Graeme repaired with the falconer of Avenel, Adam Woodcock. " It was a busy scene, for the number of gentlemen and nobles who were now crowded into the city had filled all spare stables and places of public reception with their horses and military attendants." The minstrel's instrument " had drawn in several auditors from the street ", among them Henry Seyton, whose form and face Graeme mistook for those of the sister Catherine, and who handed Graeme a sword to unsheathe before the rightful sovereign only.

The same hostelry gave shelter to Edward Waverley and Fergus MacIvor—" a small paved court, retiring from the street called the Canongate, at the house of a buxom widow of forty ". Mrs Flockhart, " smiling in her weeds like the sun through a mist, took the head of the table, thinking within herself, perhaps, that she cared not how long the rebellion lasted that brought her into company so much above her usual associates. She was supported by Waverley and

the Baron with the advantage of the Chieftain, vis-a-vis" (*Waverley*).

While the Whitehorse Close was being restored, the date over the prominent dormer window was changed from 1523 to 1623, but *Views in Edinburgh* by Storer makes the year 1683, a date perhaps more in keeping with the architecture.

On the north is Calton Road, where stand eight of the arches of the old stables and coach-houses, with "smithy". From this place started the coaches for Newcastle and London. Scott instances the case of a single letter constituting the mail from London (1737).

ABBEY STRAND—North Side

Thomson's Court (9).—In the quaint building, recently restored, aristocratic debtors found sanctuary.

Here lived in the 18th century a notorious character, Luckie Spence, satirised by Allan Ramsay :—

> Lass, gi'e us in anither gill,
> A mutchken, jo, let's tak our fill ;
> Let Death syne registrate his bill
> When I want sense,
> I'll slip away with better will,
> Quo' Lucky Spence.

"Mr Chrystal Croftangry", a debtor within the precincts, lodged with "an honest Highland-woman", Janet McEvoy, the "undisputed owner of one flat of a small tenement in the Abbey Yard".

When later he returned to Auld Reekie, he went, says he, "to the very portion of the Canongate in which I had formerly been immured, like the errant knight, prisoner in some enchanted castle, where spells have made the ambient air impervious to the unhappy captive, although the organs of sight encountered no obstacle to his free passage" (*Chronicles of the Canongate*).

The "Houses of Refuge", distant from Holyroodhouse a hundred yards or more and separated from the Burgh of Canongate by a paved girth, were occupied by debtors who had here the right of sanctuary. The "Baron Bailie", as he was styled, settled disputes, even sending refugees to jail. The sanctuary dwellers ("Abbey lairds") were permitted to cross the girth on Sunday only.

Among the debtors who availed themselves of this retreat was De Quincey.

It is a pleasing reflection that while one Sanctuary has disappeared amidst general satisfaction, another with equal satisfaction has come into being—the Bird Sanctuary at Duddingston.

CANONGATE—South Side

From "Wastle's" own house, "the way thither lies straight down the only great street of the Old Town—a street by far the most impressive in its character of any I have ever seen in Britain" (Lockhart).

St Mary's Street.—This Street or Wynd, immediately outside the City Wall, was named after a nunnery dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The Red Lion or Ramsay's Inn, with accommodation for 100 horses and 20 carriages, was named after Peter Ramsay, brother of William Ramsay, laird of Barnton, and a prominent sporting character. Pascal Paoli, Corsican patriot, and personal friend of the Johnsonian group, arrived at the Inn in 1771, subsequently going to James's Court as the guest of Boswell.

[Boyd's Close].—James Boyd's Inn, at the sign of the White Horse, is not to be confused with the other hostelry in the Whitehorse Close at the lower end of the Canongate. Johnson arrived at Boyd's on Saturday, 14th August 1773. The house was then kept by a woman called "Luckie", a word synonymous in England with "Goody". The accommodation was not inconsiderable; there were 13 bedrooms and there was stabling for 50 horses. Johnson "asked to have his lemonade made sweeter; upon which", according to Boswell, "the waiter, with his greasy fingers, lifted a lump of sugar, and put it into it. The Doctor, in indignation, threw it out of the window."

Johnson and Boswell walked arm-in-arm to the latter's house in James's Court.

Gullan's Close (264), **Gibb's Close** (250).—The old buildings in this vicinity are worth preserving.

PLATE XXXIII.

Boyd's Close.

[*See page 94.*

One of the three specific charges against the murderer Burke was, that in Gibb's Close at the house of his brother, Constantine, a city scavenger, he strangled Mary Paterson, an unfortunate.

Chessels' Court (240).—Built by Andrew Chessels. Here stands the old Excise Office, the scene of the last exploit of Deacon Brodie. The railing in front is of wrought iron. The last tenement on the right has a noticeable balustrade.

Plainstane Close (222).—The original Close had been paved with flagstones instead of causeway stones or cobbles.

Miln's Close (212).—Cromwell's sick and wounded soldiers were quartered here: during recent excavations skeletons have been discovered.

Weir's Close (206).—The houses between this Close and Miln's date back a century or two.

Playhouse Close (200).—The Theatre, opened in 1747, had a double row of dormer windows, which provided light for the dressing-rooms. Handel's bassoon player (Lampe) was for a time leader of the orchestra. The Canongate Theatre ceased to exist in 1786, the year in which the Theatre Royal was opened at Shakespeare Square (the site of the present General Post Office).

"The Man of Feeling" once saw the future King Charles X., Count d'Artois (1757–1836),

" wrapped in an old surtout, accompanied only by his favourite M. de Puysegur, in a little dirty close in the Canongate where they had been looking at some old house (I believe the old Theatre) " ; Mackenzie adds that he almost wept to think of his reduced state.

Old Playhouse Close (196).—To this Close, Hugh Miller, geologist and journalist, was led by a ragged child to see Mary Duff, who years before had been " bred up beside him in Cromarty ", and who was now in destitution. Miller slipped half-a-crown into Mary's hand, promising he would call again in the morning. Mary died during the night, and at the funeral in the Canongate Churchyard he met an old woman to whom the deceased had given his half-crown in payment of a debt. It is this incident which is the subject of John Brown's *Her Last Half-Crown.*

St John's Close (188).—Here is situated Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2, the organ built in 1757 being still in use. In Stuart Watson's picture of the imaginary meeting of the Lodge when Robert Burns was made Poet Laureate appear eminent members. Twenty-eight years elapsed before the Minute-Book proclaimed that Burns had been Laureate of the Lodge.

At St John's Cross (indicated by a ring of cobble-stones) King James VI. knighted the Provost of Edinburgh in 1617 ; King Charles I. knighted another Provost in 1633.

The City of Edinburgh seems always to have

OLD PLAYHOUSE CLOSE.

[*See page 96.*

possessed the south side of the Canongate from the Netherbow to St John's Cross. The portion mentioned having already belonged to Edinburgh, the City acquired superiority over the rest of the Burgh of Canongate in 1636.

St John's Street.—This Street was begun in 1768. The house with the arch was that of the Earl of Hopetoun. The first floor was occupied by Mrs Telfer in 1766, when she entertained her brother Tobias Smollett, M.D. (1721–71). He had been elected a Burgess and Guild Brother of Edinburgh six years before, and during his second visit met some men of distinction, among them David Hume, John Home, Principal Robertson, Adam Smith, Hugh Blair. Referring to Smollett's first visit to Scotland, Jupiter Carlyle writes :— "He came out to Musselburgh and passed a day and a night with me, and went to church and heard me preach."

South of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2, is the former residence of the Earl of Wemyss.

In No. 8 St John's Street lived Sir David Rae, Lord Eskgrove (1724 – 1804), who succeeded Braxfield as Lord Justice-Clerk. Eskgrove was one of the judges who tried Deacon Brodie (1788), and the Parliamentary Reformers (1794).

In No. 10 lived James Ballantyne (1772–1833), Scott's printer, who was wont to give a "gorgeous" feast to his intimate friends on the eve of the issue of a novel by the Great Unknown, and to read from the proof-sheets particularly striking passages.

No. 13 (demolished) was the home of the eccentric judge, James Burnett, Lord Monboddo (1714–99). "Classical learning, good conversation, excellent suppers, and ingenious though unsound metaphysics, were the peculiarities of Monboddo" (Cockburn). During the sittings of the Court, he gave a "learned supper" once a fortnight, Robert Burns frequently being his guest. Monboddo's daughter, "the fair Burnett" of the Poet's song, died of tuberculosis at the age of twenty-two, and was buried at Greyfriars.

No. 15 (demolished) was where Dr James Gregory, Professor of the Practice of Physic, lived.

In St John's Street resided members of such Scottish families as Blantyre, Prestongrange, Allanbank, Ashestiel, Seggieden, Mortonhall, Baberton.

Moray House (174).—This mansion has no connection with the "Good Regent" Moray, but was erected in King Charles I.'s reign (about 1628) by Mary Sutton, daughter of Lord Dudley and widow of 1st Earl of Home, who presented it to her daughter, Margaret, wife of 4th Earl of Moray. It has exquisitely beautiful ceilings and wood-carving.

David Buchanan (1595–1652), who wrote a description of Edinburgh in Latin to accompany Gordon of Rothiemay's Plan of the City, described the residence and gardens of the Earl as "of such elegance, and cultivated with such diligence, that they easily challenge comparison with the gardens

MORAY HOUSE.

[*See page* 98.

of warmer climates and almost of England itself, and here you may see how much human skill and industry avail in making up for the defects of nature herself".

At Lady Home's "Lodging" in the Canongate Cromwell put up on two occasions—settling affairs with the Covenanters, and resting after his victory at Dunbar.

The festivities being continued for a few days after the marriage of Lady Mary Stuart, daughter of 4th Lord Moray, to Lord Lorne, afterwards 9th Earl of Argyll, the chief guests assembled on 18th May 1650 on the balcony to see Montrose pass, "bound to the cart with a rope". Montrose was being taken to the Parliament House, "there, in the place of delinquents, on his knees to receive his sentence". The Marquess of Argyll and his son (the bridegroom of 1650) were themselves executed at the Cross, the one in 1661, the other in 1685; the former suffered "for his horrid villainies against King Charles the Royall martyr", while the latter was the "luckless earl" who led the Rising against King James VII.

James Ogilvy, 1st Earl of Seafield (1664–1730), tenanted Moray House at the time of the Union with England. He was the last Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, a minister vested with the authority and power of a viceroy. In dismissing the last Scots Parliament, he exclaimed, "Now there's ane end of ane auld sang". Mrs Bethune Baliol (*Chronicles of the Canongate*) says that from the balcony in front of Lord Moray's

Lodging her mother saw "the riding of the last Scottish Parliament."

In the grounds is a summer-house erected by Lord Guthrie on the spot where some of the signatures were obtained for the Union.

"Huntly" House.—Evidence is wanting that the mansion was the property of the Huntly family.

The first Marquess (1562–1636), murderer of the bonnie Earl of Moray, had a residence somewhere in the Canongate, and Henrietta, daughter of Lord Peterborough and widow of the 2nd Duke of Gordon, tenanted in the 18th century a portion of the house which was the property of the Hammermen of Canongate.

Apropos of the 'Fifteen the Minute-Book (25th January 1720) of the Canongate mentions some thirty-four persons, including "Jean Baillie, Lady Castlecarie", who, "seized and apprehended within the lodgings of the Dutchess Dowager of Gordon as Papists, and assembled together for wirshop, were thereafter committed to the Canongate Prison".

The timber-fronted gables are worthy of notice. The Latin mottoes read :—

Another hope of life.

To a constant spirit the things of mortals are as a shadow.

As you are master of your tongue, so am I master of my ears.

To-day for me, to-morrow for you, why worry? 1570.

"HUNTLY" HOUSE.

[*See page* 100.

ACHESON'S DOORWAY.

[*See page* 101.

Bakehouse Close (146).—Here the Incorporation of Bakers possessed property.

Down the Close is the stately residence of the Acheson family with forecourt, dormer windows, and crow-stepped gable. Over the doorway is a cock perched on a trumpet, with the motto *Vigilantibus 1633*. The initials S. A. A. denote Sir Archibald Acheson, Solicitor-General, Senator of College of Justice, Secretary of State,—D. M. H. his second wife, Dame Margaret Hamilton, grandchild of Lord Paisley (of the House of Abercorn). Sir Archibald was an ancestor of the Earls of Gosford.

"When I heard her carry her description of manners so far back beyond her own time", Croftangry refers to conversations on the Canongate with Mrs Bethune Baliol, "and describe how Fletcher of Saltoun spoke, how Grahame of Claverhouse danced, what were the jewels worn by the famous Duchess of Lauderdale and how she came by them, I could not help telling her I thought her some fairy, who cheated us by retaining the appearance of a mortal of our own day, when in fact she had witnessed the revolutions of centuries."

Wilson's Court (134).—The group of dwellings is old. An excellent view can be had from the windows of the spiral stair. Note the ancient buildings in the rear of Slater's and in front of Bakehouse Close. Gratings were used for the windows to prevent stuff from being cast therefrom.

Bull's Close (106).—From this Close one sees Salisbury Crags. "Yes, Edina, thou art indeed a noble city, a metropolis worthy of the land of mountain and of flood, glen, forest, loch, and long-winding arms of ocean! Queen of the North! which of thy august shrines dost thou love the best—the Castle-cliff, within whose hoary battlements Kings were born—the Green Hill looking down on deserted Holyrood—the Crags smitten into grandeur and beauty by time and the elements—or the Mountain, like a lion couchant, reposing in the sky" ("Christopher North," *Noctes Ambrosianae*).

Milton House (School) (90).—The school as viewed from the south is imposing. Portions of the old walls of Milton House have been preserved.

According to Edgar's Map the Duke of Roxburghe lived here in 1742. The mansion was occupied some twenty years later by Andrew Fletcher, Lord Milton (1692–1766), nephew of the patriot, Fletcher of Saltoun, who died lamenting the Union of 1707. At 32 years of age Fletcher became a Scots judge, succeeding Erskine of Grange as Lord Justice-Clerk in 1735, and presiding in the following year at the trial of Captain Porteous. Jupiter Carlyle, speaking of Lord Milton as political manager of this country under Argyll, says of him:—"He was a man of great ability in business, a man of good sense, and of excellent talents for managing men." Milton is said to have abstained from severe measures during the Rising of 1745 and to have

PLATE XXXVIII.

HOLYROODHOUSE.

[*See page* 107.

" adopted means either to conceal or to recall such of the rebels as had been misled from the paths of loyalty ".

Haddington's Entry and Reid's Close (80).—The residence over the Canongate arch was that of Sir John Nisbet, Lord Dirleton (1609–87), " one of the most learned men of his age ". He was the last Lord Advocate with a seat on the bench. As prosecutor of the unfortunate Presbyterians, he nearly equalled in severity his successor, Sir George Mackenzie. Gilbert Burnet characterises Dirleton as " a man of great learning both in law and in many other things, chiefly in the Greek learning ; he was a person of great integrity ; only he loved money too much, but he always stood firm to the law ".

Down Reid's Close (on the right) is the 18th-century residence of the Earl of Aberdeen, one room of which has mural paintings ; (on the left) at the end of Haddington's Entry resided the Earl of Haddington.

Queensberry House (64).—Now a House of Refuge for the Destitute, it was built in the reign of King Charles II. by the judge Lord Halton, Charles Maitland, afterwards 3rd Earl of Lauderdale (d. 1691). The mansion was sold to William 1st Duke of Queensberry (1637–95). A floor has been added to the original structure. The 2nd Duke (1662–1711) was entrusted with completing the Treaty of Union, a duty which rendered his name unpopular throughout Scotland.

While signatures were being appended, Lord Drumlanrig, the heir, was left in Queensberry House with a Canongate spit-boy. Drumlanrig, an idiot, murdered and roasted the boy!

A famous occupant of the house was the 3rd Duchess, Lady Catherine Hyde (1700–77), daughter of the Earl of Clarendon. She was beautiful, witty, kindly, but somewhat eccentric. She was known to exercise no little influence over Pitt, and enjoyed the friendship of Congreve, Thomson, Pope, Prior, Swift. When Gay was refused a licence for the production of his opera *Polly*, the Queensberrys sheltered him for the rest of his life.

In Queensberry House—at one time a military barrack—were confined the officers of Cope's Army taken prisoners at Prestonpans; after some days they were liberated on parole and allowed to lodge in the City.

Sir James Montgomery, baronet (1721–1803), author of the Entail Act which bears his name, lived in Queensberry House, and, "I believe", says Cockburn, "was the last gentleman who resided in that historical mansion, which, though now one of the asylums of destitution, was once the brilliant abode of rank and fashion and political intrigue. I wish the Canongate could be refreshed again by the habitual sight of the Lord Chief Baron's family and company, and the gorgeous carriage, and the tall and well-dressed figure, in the old style, of his Lordship himself."

Chancellor's Court (opposite Whitehorse Close).—Here stood the house of James Drummond (1648–1716), Lord Chancellor. He enjoyed the confidence of King James VII., becoming the chief agent in the Catholic administration of Scotland during the Revolution, and being created Duke of Perth. He is notorious as having added the thumbscrew to the world's instruments of torture.

Horse Wynd.—This is the old entrance to the Royal Mews.

Behind the 18th-century mansion, recognised by the vases on the roof, stood Lothian Hut, the abode of Dugald Stewart, whom Scott regarded as "most impressive and eloquent", and whom Cockburn termed "the last of his illustrious class". When Stewart lectured on Political Economy, his audiences included Sydney Smith, Francis Horner, Lord Jeffrey, Henry Erskine, Lord Brougham, Sir Archibald Alison, Lord Palmerston, Lord John Russell.

Across the roadway stretches the girth, with the letter "S" denoting Sanctuary. A few yards west from this point stood the "Girth Cross", the boundary of the Abbey Sanctuary, or—according to David Buchanan in his description of Edinburgh (1647–52)—"the Cross of the Precincts, because between it and the Abbey a certain space is marked off, which was formerly kept as an asylum for those who dared not venture abroad on account of the rigour of the law or the injustice of the supreme law". Scott

abridges from Maitland the limits of what was the debtor's place of refuge until 1880, when imprisonment for debt was abolished: "One would think the space sufficiently extensive for a man to stretch his limbs in, as besides a reasonable proportion of level ground, considering that the scene lies in Scotland, it includes within its precincts the mountain of Arthur's Seat, and the rocks and pasture land called Salisbury Crags. But yet it is inexpressible how, after a certain time had elapsed, I used to long for Sunday, which permitted me to extend my walk without limitation. During the six other days of the week I felt a sickness of heart which, but for the speedy approach of the hebdomadal day of liberty, I could hardly have endured. I experienced the impatience of a mastiff, who tugs in vain to extend the limits which his chain permits" (*Chronicles of the Canongate*).

At the Girth Cross, on 1st July 1600, Jean Livingston, a beauty of nineteen, daughter of the Laird of Dunipace, was beheaded for the murder of her husband, John Kincaid of Warriston. She induced her father's servant, Robert Weir, to creep into Kincaid's bedroom and strangle him. It was the husband's cruelty which led Jean to seek his destruction.

ABBEY STRAND—South Side

Abbey Court-house (2). — The wall bears traces of the Gothic Porch erected in 1502 and demolished by the Keeper of the Palace in 1753.

Roland Graeme and Adam Woodcock "checked their horses, where the huge old vaulted entrance to the Abbey or Palace of Holyrood crossed the termination of the street, down which they had proceeded. The court-yard of the Palace opened within this gloomy porch, showing the front of an irregular pile of monastic buildings, one wing of which is still extant, forming a part of the modern palace, erected in the days of Charles II." (*The Abbot*).

"We boast being the court end of the town, possessing the Palace and the sepulchral remains of monarchs; and we have the power to excite, in a degree unknown to the less-honoured quarters of the city, the dark and solemn recollections of ancient grandeur which occupied the precincts of our venerable Abbey from the time of St David" (*Fair Maid of Perth*).

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

Holyrood is "a house of many memories. Great people of yore, kings and queens, buffoons and grave ambassadors, played their stately farce for centuries in Holyrood. Wars have been plotted, dancing has lasted deep into the night, murder has been done in its chambers" (R. L. Stevenson).

Tradition says that King David I. founded the original building here in 1128 as a thank-offering for his deliverance from an infuriated stag. The Monastery was converted after the Reformation into a Royal residence. The portion of the

Palace which faces the Canongate is the work of King James IV.; the remainder, designed by Sir William Bruce of Kinross and founded in 1671 by Robert Mylne, Royal Master Mason, was erected by Lauderdale acting for King Charles II.

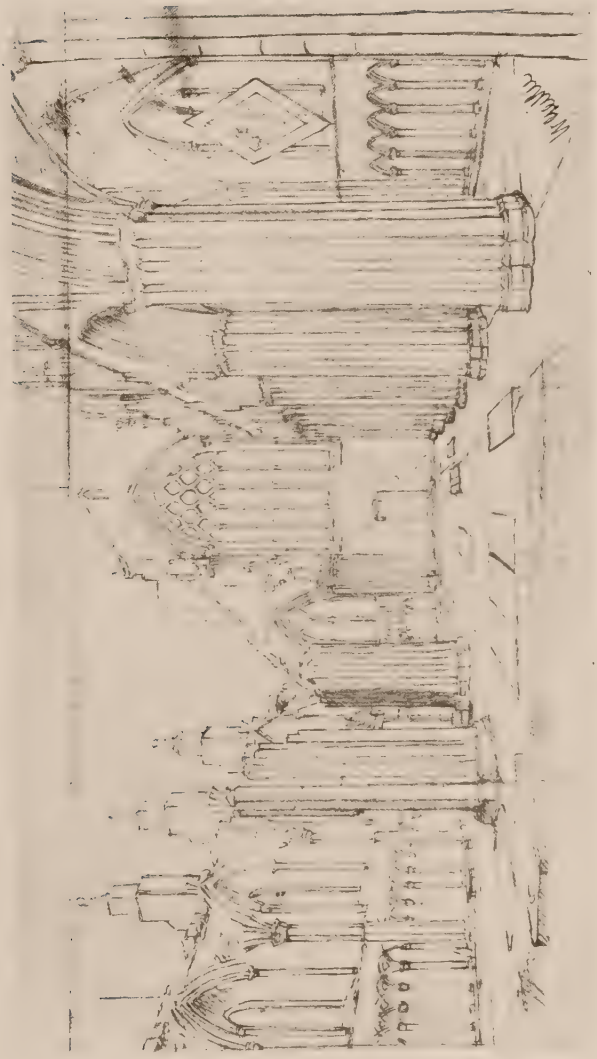
The James IV. Tower contains the suite of apartments associated with Mary Stuart, John Knox, and David Riccio. The bed is not that of Mary Queen of Scots, however; it is named from the beautiful Mary of Modena, whom James Duke of York married in 1673.

The Picture Gallery is hung with fanciful portraits of sovereigns, all painted by one man, the Flemish artist, James de Witt. In the same apartment are exquisite panels by Hugo van der Goes from the altar-piece of Trinity College Church. Here it was that Prince Charles Edward gave the ball which Scott describes in *Waverley*. It may be added that the Young Chevalier, when in Edinburgh, never appeared in a kilt, always dressed in tartan coat and breeches, never danced, never slept in the Palace of his ancestors.

And here too are elected the Scottish representative peers.

The first sovereign crowned at Holyrood was James II., the last, Charles I. Holyroodhouse is occupied from time to time by Their Majesties, and during the sitting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland by the King's Representative, the Lord High Commissioner.

In the south-east corner of the ruined Chapel —the nave of the Abbey Church—stands the



HOLYROOD ABBEY.

[*See page* 108.

HOLYROOD SUNDIAL.

[*See page* 109.

Royal vault with the remains of King David II. (1324–71); King James II. (1430–60) and Queen Mary of Gueldres; King James V. (1512–42) and Queen Madeline de Valois; Henry Lord Darnley (1545–67).

Among the celebrities who rest in the ancient pile are the following :—

Lady Jane Stewart (1698–1753), of Douglas Cause fame.

David Dunbar, who married (1669) "Lucy Ashton", heroine of *The Bride of Lammermoor*.

Isabella Countess of Erroll (1742–1808), hostess of Johnson and Boswell at Slains Castle in 1773.

Miss Nicky Murray, the stately directress of the Edinburgh dancing assemblies.

Adam Bothwell (1527–93), Bishop of Orkney, who married Queen Mary and Lord Bothwell according to Presbyterian form.

William Hamilton of Bangour (1704–54), poet, whose admirers included Fergusson and Wordsworth.

The Royal Gardens boast a "Queen Mary" Sun-Dial. In point of fact, the dial, built by the Royal Master Mason in 1633, bears the initials of King Charles I. and his Queen (Henrietta Maria).

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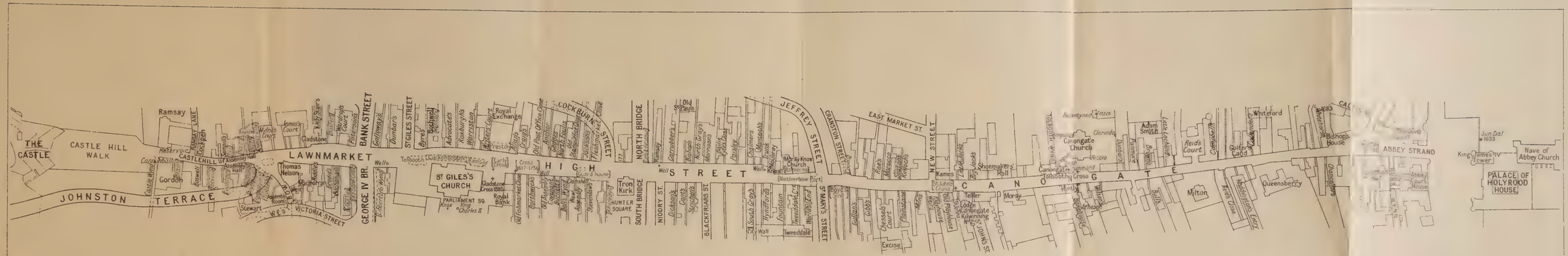

THE ROYAL MILE

1928

Based upon Map by Mr Henry E Kerr

The names of Closes and Wynds which no longer exist are in brackets

Scale of Feet

100 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700

1926
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